

Women's Platform Limited

Northern Ireland · Charity number 108453

Details

Status Received

Company number [41273](#)

Registered 2022-04-19

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

Contact

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Website www.womensplatform.org

Activities

Purposes: 1. The advancement of equality and human rights for women and girls (as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and subsequent United Nations and European conventions and declarations), in political, economic, social, cultural, civic and any other fields, for women in Northern Ireland, by all or any of the following means: (i) educating the public about human rights and gender inequality issues; (ii) promoting respect for human rights and gender equality among individuals, governments, corporations and other institutions; (iii) promoting public support for the protection of human rights; (iv) commenting on proposed gender discrimination legislation and providing technical and policy advice to statutory bodies and other agencies, organisations and institutions; (v) contributing to the sound administration of human rights law; (vi) promoting enforcement of domestic human rights law by the state and its institutions; (vii) international advocacy of human rights; (viii) research into human rights issues. 2. The promotion of equality, diversity and community development by all or any of the following means: (i) provide and maintain a Forum where women's organisations can join together to exchange views, share common issues and information and create a collective voice on specific issues of concern to women in Northern Ireland; (ii) provide strategic and practical support to women's organisations operating in Northern Ireland; (iii) design, promote, implement and evaluate strategies and develop and carry through action plans concerned with improving the economic, social, cultural, health and civic lives of women in Northern Ireland; (iv) promote study and research, set priorities and develop and influence policy and practice in the fields of gender equality, diversity and community development

What the charity does: The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity

How the charity works: Community development, Cross-border/cross-community, Education/training, Gender, Human rights/equality, Research/evaluation

Who the charity helps: Women

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£139,822	£139,219	£0	1

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alexa Moore		
Alexandra Brennan		
Annemarie Mcvicker		
Jeanette Thornton		
Karen Devlin		
Ms Aislinn Fanning		
Ms Maxine Murphy-Higgins		
Ms Naomi English		
Siobhán Harding		

Women's Platform Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108453

Accounts

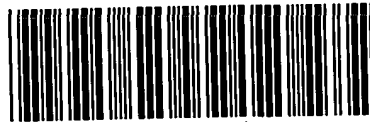
Company registered number: NI041273
Charity Registered number: NIC108453

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

SATURDAY



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06/12/2025

#239

COMPANIES HOUSE

Tony Clarke
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

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WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The company was incorporated on 03 August 2001 and registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19 April 2022.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI041273

Registered Charity number

NIC108453

Registered office

6 Mount Charles

Belfast

BT7 1NZ

CHAIRPERSON

Emma Osborne

DIRECTORS

Emma Osborne

Chair

Aislinn Fanning

Vice Chair

Anne McVicker

Company Secretary

Jeanette Thornton

Treasurer

Karen Devlin

European Women's Lobby representative

Alexandra Brennan

Naomi English

Siobhán Harding

Alexa Moore

Maxine Murphy-Higgins

Beverly Simpson

Louise Coyle

Resigned on 19 July 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Tony Clarke FCPA

53 Andersontown Road

Belfast

BT11 9AG

Women's Platform Limited

HMRC charitable status number NI01117

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NI108453

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

Women's Platform is a membership organisation working to raise awareness and promote the implementation of international human rights standards in Northern Ireland, and in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in line with commitments the UK has made to international human rights treaties. Established in 1988 as the Northern Ireland link to the European Women's Lobby, Women's Platform also works to amplify the voices of women and girls in Northern Ireland at the European and international level, including at the UN. Women's Platform is in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, which enables the organisation to engage in UN human rights processes and coordinate a Northern Ireland civil society response to these processes.

The work of Women's Platform locally focuses on building the capacity of members and the wider women's sector to utilise international human rights standards and mechanisms for women's rights in their own practice and in advocacy to promote gender equality in Northern Ireland. Women's Platform also shares evidence and good practice from international networks locally, and works with members to explore and enable engagement with international networks relevant to gender equality and the women, peace and security agenda. In addition, Women's Platform contributes evidence to consultation processes and engages with policy and decision makers to highlight human rights commitments and evidence of good practice on realising gender equality. This includes work on the women, peace and security agenda in alignment with the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, including acting as the lead partner for the Irish government funded Women's Spaces project. Women's Platform acts as the secretariat for the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security.

Women's Platform exists to advance the equality and human rights and equality of women and girls in Northern Ireland, through a number of mechanisms including education of the public, promotion of human rights and public support for human rights, commenting on proposed legislation and policy, international advocacy, promoting domestic enforcement of human rights and research into human rights issues. Women's Platform also exists to promote equality, diversity and community development through means including providing a forum for women's organisations, providing strategic and operational support to women's organisations, development and delivery of action plans concerned with improving the lives of women in Northern Ireland and influencing policy and practice in the fields of gender equality, diversity and community development.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Key activities of the Organisation

The following were the key activities of the organisation in 2024-25:

CEDAW

The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a central international human rights treaty, which the UK ratified in 1986. Women's Platform coordinates the civil society response to CEDAW in Northern Ireland, through preparing shadow reports in collaboration with members and partners, and promoting and monitoring implementation of the Committee's recommendations to the UK. Women's Platform also assists in highlighting gender equality perspectives in relation to other UN human rights treaties. In 2024-25, Women's Platform focused on preparing for examination of the UK under CEDAW, in particular through developing links with sister organisations in England, Scotland and Wales as a basis for preparing a four nations shadow report. This work included seeking clarification on the timescale for the next UK examination, which due to delays at the UN is now expected in 2026. Work subsequently focused on strengthening capacity on CEDAW locally, in order to prepare for effective evidence gathering in 2025-26. This included a series of training sessions introducing human rights concepts, including to new groups such as grassroots older women's groups and migrants' groups, which significantly assisted with outreach to these audiences, contributing to strengthening intersectional practice.

Women's Platform also introduced a monthly webinar series building capacity on international human rights mechanisms and UN processes, which attracted over 100 participants between August 2024 and March 2025. The webinar series is designed to demystify international human rights mechanisms and enable networking with human rights experts and international women's sector professionals, and has received very positive feedback, highlighting that such capacity building strengthens women's confidence and interest in engaging with public life more widely. The webinar series was complemented in 2024-25 by a podcast series seeking to provide an accessible introduction to international human rights concepts and share learning from Women's Platform's European partners and connections. In total eight episodes were produced in this series supported by funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund Northern Ireland, which both received positive feedback and assisted in building connections between the local women's sector and international networks.

Women's Platform also contributed evidence to a Northern Ireland civil society shadow report on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and assisted in sharing recommendations from the Concluding Observations for the UK following an examination in February 2025.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the UN intergovernmental body responsible for reviewing progress on the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as promoting the empowerment of women and setting UN policy on gender equality. Operating through annual conferences, its key role is to assist the United Nations and member states in setting policy direction on gender equality; CSW also plays a key role in monitoring progress on the implementation of gender equality through the global Sustainable Development Goals and integration of gender throughout the Goals. Women's Platform, as an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, is eligible to participate in CSW and submit evidence.

Commission on the Status of Women continued...

CSW69 took place 10-21 March 2025 as a primarily in person conference, focusing on marking the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and reviewing progress with a view to re-energising commitment to this groundbreaking agenda for change. The conference is increasingly returning to in person delivery, and a significant focus during the year was seeking funding for a delegation to participate in CSW69 to gain evidence, expertise, examples of good practice and new relationships, with a number of business cases made and engagement undertaken with a range of Northern Ireland institutions and organisations with a view to securing funding. While this proved difficult in light of the very tight fiscal situation, engagement built understanding of CSW and its relevance to Northern Ireland, and contributed to strengthened interest and capacity at policy and decision maker level, enabling strengthened advocacy of inclusion of international models of good practice and international human rights standards in decision making. Learning from CSW68, shared through a report in early 2024-25, also contributed to strengthening sector capacity to effectively advocate for change, and in particular helped Women's Platform to further clarify its role as a sectoral support on international human rights mechanisms.

A small delegation was ultimately supported through using Women's Platform reserves, as the trustees deemed attendance in person in New York vital for meeting organisational aims and strengthening the organisation's international profile. Securing and organising the delegation, including capacity building and engagement with the sector through meetings and a webinar organised as part of the International Women's Day programme, was a core part of work in the last quarter of 2024-25. A report will be prepared in early 2025-26 to enable effectively sharing of learning and use of good practice identified within work across the women's sector.

The delegation took part in CSW69 during the first week of the conference, and focused on gathering evidence, examples of good practice and learning from governments, international networks and global civil society, in line with needs and priorities identified in collaboration with members and stakeholders in the women's sector in Northern Ireland. Virtual participation of local organisations in CSW69 was supported through sharing updates and information on events and programming live streamed through UN WebTV and online conferencing platforms, and feedback from both CSW68 and CSW69 underlined that this was useful and assisted in demystifying international networks. Women's Platform also organised a virtual side event on Women building peace: Solidarity and sharing learning, which focused on highlighting experiences of women peacebuilders in (post)conflict regions across the world, including Northern Ireland and Iraq, and exploring mechanisms for strengthening women's participation in decision making in different contexts. This event received positive feedback and identified a number of concrete international learning and collaboration opportunities, which will be developed as core work in 2025-26.

Women's Platform also engaged with both the UK and Irish governments at CSW69 and emphasised the importance of sharing learning, as well as building global solidarity at a time of deepening uncertainty. This process contributed to developing links with policy makers, as a basis for longer term advocacy and engagement.

Women's Platform also made submissions to the UN High Level Political Forum, which monitors progress on delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the UN Summit for the Future, which seeks to develop a new commitment to multilateral action on key global priorities. The Pact for the Future, agreed in September 2024, was the topic for a focused webinar in September 2024, which identified a number of potential mechanisms for further development.

Commission on the Status of Women continued...

At the UK level, Women's Platform continued participation in the UK NGO CSW Alliance, a coalition of women's organisations engaged with CSW. The role of Women's Platform is to ensure a strong voice for women and girls in Northern Ireland, and the focus of collaboration in 2024-25 was on advocating for a clear voice for devolved administrations and sharing good practice across devolved administrations. Similar collaboration with the European Women's Lobby is developing, with a view to ensuring that EU level organisations and actors have an understanding of events and priorities in the UK.

European Women's Lobby

The European Women's Lobby is the umbrella network for women's networks in Europe. Women's Platform is a core member of the UK Joint Committee on Women, which acts as the coordination of the UK membership of the European Women's Lobby, across the devolved administrations. Women's Platform also participates in the European Women's Lobby, including relevant sub networks, and supported England as the UK Board member within the Lobby to engage with European as well as UK partners. Work continued to build relationships with the Lobby, with a focus on exploring effective mechanisms for mutual information and skill sharing following Brexit. Women's Platform participated in the EWL taskforce on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and contributed to sharing information between the Lobby and UK Joint Committee on Women partners.

Women's Platform also led work to explore a renewal of the UK Joint Committee on Women, following a period of significant change in constituent organisations. This included exploring perspectives and priorities across the four partner organisations in relation to four nations and European level collaboration, and identified a commitment to further review to be developed in 2025-26.

Women, Peace and Security

Women's Platform provides the secretariat for the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group (APG) on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security. During the year, the APG continued its active role in dialogue on gender equality in Northern Ireland and acted as a link between decision making structures and the sector, including initiating correspondence with Ministers on key issues following return of sitting institutions in February 2024. A cross party leadership team was elected at the AGM in June 2024, confirming a broad base of support for the APG.

Violence against women and girls was a core local priority for the APG, which engaged with the Northern Ireland Civil Service to secure a strong strategy on violence against women and girls. The APG also initiated development of links with migrant organisations and explored anti racist action following a spate of anti racist and Islamophobic riots in August 2024. In addition, the APG took a growing interest in international solidarity and in particular human rights breaches in Afghanistan and Gaza, writing to the UK and Irish governments on a number of occasions to urge for leadership in upholding international human rights. The APG also underlined the importance of including Northern Ireland in both the UK and Ireland National Action Plans on women, peace and security, and championed engagement with local government as an important driver of action relevant to gender equality and meeting women's needs at local level.

Women, Peace and Security continued...

The UK National Action Plan 2023-27 for the first time includes Northern Ireland, following strong advocacy at the policy development stage in 2022-23, and this identified new opportunities for engagement with the Northern Ireland Office as a key link between the UK government and devolved institutions. Ongoing dialogue identified an opportunity for a project supported by UK NAP funds to explore networking between women peacebuilders in Northern Ireland and other (post)conflict regions, and Women's Platform successfully delivered a feasibility study in November 2024-March 2025 engaging women peacebuilders in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Colombia. The project also included commissioning an overview of historical engagement of women peacebuilders in Northern Ireland with international networks and resulted in a report setting out recommendations for further development of networking, which will be a priority in 2025-26.

Women's Platform engaged the UK women, peace and security network GAPS in supporting the feasibility study, which built further links with GAPS, , and through this built engagement with the international development NGOs at UK level. In addition, Women's Platform contributed to the GAPS annual shadow report on the UK National Action Plan on women, peace and security.

Following long term work to develop relationships with the Irish Government, which includes Northern Ireland in its National Action Plan on women, peace and security, Women's Platform in collaboration with Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA), Women's Support Network (WSN) and Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN) successfully secured a three year Strategic Partnership project within the Reconciliation Fund in 2022-23, which went into its third year in 2024-25. The project is a three year capacity building and advocacy programme, which during the year focused on capacity building with grassroots women and developing a virtual toolkit on effective mechanisms for engaging women in peacebuilding and decision making, which will be launched in early 2025-26 as the key deliverable from the project. Women's Platform takes a project coordination and financial management role within the project, which is delivered by two part time project coordinators employed through project partners WRDA and NIRWN. During the year, Women's Platform led strategic development and monitoring of the project, and also contributed concrete operational support to project coordinators, in particular in relation to managing budgets and timelines.

During the year, there was an emphasis on developing the toolkit, which included a sub project collecting case studies from women peacebuilders and engagement professionals in the form of a series of vlogs and blogs. Women's Platform coordinated strategic and operational planning, and assisted project coordinators in developing operational action plans and delivery, including developing the virtual toolkit and organising filming of the vlogs and collation of the blogs. The organisation also took lead in engaging with an longitudinal evaluator and implementing action to address recommendations from the first interim report, as well as engaging with the funder and reporting on progress. The project enabled development of further strong links with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, and has identified a significant demand for skill building on women, peace and security in Northern Ireland. Plans for longer term development were initiated, including exploring a number of funding options based on clear and strong feedback from participants that a long term commitment is needed.

Local alliance building and advocacy

Women's Platform remains an active member of the NI Women's Policy Group and worked closely with the Women's Sector Lobbyist to develop advocacy for gender equality in policy and decision making, including development of the APG on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security. In 2024-25, this focused on strengthening the international human rights element in sectoral policy submissions, and Women's Platform strengthened its role as the sectoral support on international human rights standards, as well as the key source of information and expertise on good practice from international networks, with the fortnightly newsletter playing a key role in building sector capacity on key international issues and events relevant to gender equality, as well as good practice. This contributed to stronger, more effective and streamlined policy submissions, which focused on the impact of budget cuts on women, violence against women and girls, as well as submissions to the UK House of Commons and House of Lords on consultations primarily exploring post Brexit arrangements. This also included representing a gender equality perspective in direct engagement with political decision makers, including the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland as well as key Ministers including the Economy Minister and Junior First and Deputy First Ministers. Evidence shared by Women's Platform to Committee inquiries secured a number of opportunities to provide oral evidence to Committees, including the Executive Office Committee inquiry into gaps in equality law.

Women's Platform is also an active member of NI Women's Budget group and participates in Reclaim the Agenda. In 202-25, there was an active focus on strengthening connections between the sector and relevant expertise at European and international level, in particular in relation to gender budgeting and exploring implications of the EU Directive on violence against women and girls in the Northern Ireland context.

Communications

Through a grant from Dormant Accounts Fund NI, Women's Platform secured resourcing in 2022 to invest in developing communications of the organisation, which has been identified as a priority to strengthen engagement with and support to members and partners, and also support recruitment of members. This work in 2024-25 focused on strengthening the organisation's online and social media presence, which included introducing an Instagram presence, which has grown rapidly and assisted in outreach to young women in particular. This work has identified a clear communications development agenda, which in 2024-25 included the podcast series outlined above under the CEDAW priority area, and a monthly webinar series, and will focus on building accessible resources in 2025-26.

Adaptation in the context following the COVID-19 pandemic

Working practices in 2024-25 prioritised in person meetings and events; however, learning from the pandemic has highlighted the value of online events and communications for the sector, in particular through its increased capacity to facilitate engagement with international networks and good practice. Due to the extremely difficult fiscal position and increasing pressure on the sector, Women's Platform is committed to maintaining online engagement opportunities and developing further networking options, as a mechanism for time and resource effective international networking. Women's Platform has also embedded a culture of hybrid working, with a view to maximising efficiency and capacity of the organisation. It is anticipated that hybrid working is retained as the normalised practice, with remote working the norm during quieter periods, but in person delivery and engagement prioritised within projects.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to guidance produced by the Charity Commission regarding Public Benefit.

Directors

The following constituted the directors of Women's Platform as of 31 March 2025, elected to the Committee in November 2024:

Emma Osborne	Chair
Aislinn Fanning	Vice Chair
Anne McVicker	Company Secretary
Jeanette Thornton	Treasurer
Karen Devlin	European Women's Lobby representative
Alexandra Brennan	Member
Naomi English	Member
Siobhán Harding	Member
Alexa Moore	Member
Maxine Murphy-Higgins	Member
Beverly Simpson	Member

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE FINANCIAL REVIEW**Financial Position**

The detailed financial results for the year ended 31 March 2025 are shown on the financial statements, which accompany this report. During the year, Women's Platform successfully delivered on all of its three existing grants, including the core grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, which secured the organisation for 2022-25. A further core grant application in November 2024 was unsuccessful in securing the organisation long term, due to a change in funder priorities; however, an extension of the core grant to March 2026 sustains the organisation throughout 2025-26.

In November 2024, Women's Platform also secured a short term grant through the UK National Action Plan on women, peace and security, which delivered a feasibility study exploring networking between women peacebuilders in Northern Ireland and other (post)conflict regions. This project was successfully delivered within timescale by March 2025; however, due to the grant payment structure of claims based payment in arrears, expenditure in Q4 2024-25 will be reported in 2025-26.

Women's Platform also secured a third installment of a three year grant from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, as one of the Strategic Partnerships under its Reconciliation Fund. This project is a consortium with Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network, Women's Resource and Development Agency and Women's Support Network, and enables supporting two part time staff embedded within WRDA and NIRWN, with overall project management and financial oversight provided by Women's Platform, subject to minimal core costs for this function, which contribute to securing the organisation and add to overall sustainability of the organisation. The project follows impactful delivery by Women's Platform on initiatives promoting the women, peace and security agenda over the long term, and highlights the value funders place in the organisation as a coordination for cross sectoral action. The project is progressing well and the funder has indicated strong interest in its outcomes, which indicates a positive starting point for the future. In addition, the project is strengthening the organisation's skills and capacity in

consortium working, which are likely to be important in future fundraising in light of the tightening financial environment.

In May 2022, Women's Platform secured a two year grant from the Dormant Accounts Fund Northern Ireland to develop communications and enable the organisation to act as an effective support to members and the wider women's sector on international human rights frameworks and international good practice. The grant provides funding for an external communications consultant to lead on communications development, along with funding for communications deliverables. There was an underspend on this project in 2023-24 due to limitations in the capacity of the contractor, which were outside the control of Women's Platform; permission from the funder to reprofile this was sought and granted, with the project extended to June 2025. This delay also enabled more detailed consideration of needs and priorities, and as a result, the reprofiled budget has supported a more precise and detailed operational plan, which is focused on meeting specific information needs in the wider sector and thus strengthen the organisation's role within the sector. This, in turn, has allowed for more effective outreach to existing and potential members and contributed to identifying long term development needs.

Reserves Policy

Women's Platform maintains a prudent level of reserves to enable the organisation to deliver the strategic plan. The objective is that the organisation would be able to carry on its work, even if faced with a combination of difficult circumstances, and have the time to adjust its strategy to meet these changing circumstances. The Committee will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on an annual basis and is actively working to identify funding opportunities that will secure a level of reserves identified as appropriate, while strengthening the organisation's financial resilience as well as its ability to capitalise on opportunities that may arise beyond the core strategic plan.

In 2024-25, a decision was made to utilise a proportion of available reserves to support a delegation of two representatives to the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference in New York, following a delegation funded in 2023-24, which successfully strengthened both organisational capacity and international networks, contributing to effectively building the organisation's role within the sector. The trustees undertook a feasibility assessment against a detailed business case setting out a strictly managed budget for this, and determined that authorising this expenditure was prudent and relevant in relation to delivering the strategic plan, specifically in relation to strengthening the organisation's international profile and its capacity to act as a platform for women in Northern Ireland at the international level.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal Risks & Uncertainties

Risk Policy and Internal Control Framework

Women's Platform has put in place a risk management process, which seeks to ensure that the organisation is able to operate effectively in all circumstances. The Committee has primary responsibility for risk management and is undertaking annual risk review with a view to strengthening organisational resilience and ability to effectively monitor, prepare for and react to the main strategic, business and operational risks facing the organisation.

Women's Platform has reviewed and updated a risk review, informed by learning from the Covid-19 crisis, and put in place measures to safeguard the organisation and diversify sources of income in light of an increasingly competitive funding environment. With a core grant in place for 2022-25 and sustained core project funding in place through the Reconciliation Fund grant, the organisation is financially stable for the 2025-26 financial year and focusing on revenue funding

in line with the strategic plan.

Financial Stability

The Trustees deem the organisation to be financially stable and a going concern in the current circumstance, with the three year core cost grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust extended to March 2026 and sustainable funding for core projects in place until 2026-27. The additional Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership grant, while shared with consortium members who will carry out the majority of concrete work, confirms the role of the organisation within the women's sector and wider civil society in Northern Ireland, and provides a good basis for further developing relationships with the Irish government as a major current funder of activities relevant to the women's sector, as well as identifying additional revenue funding opportunities. The small grant secured through the Northern Ireland Office collaboration on the UK National Action Plan on women, peace and security further highlights the relevance of the organisation in translating high level policy to accessible grassroots level delivery.

The Committee has for several years involved a finance sub group to oversee long term financial planning, scrutinise financial management of the organisation and review budgets on an ongoing basis, which also scrutinises governance arrangements and legal compliance. The finance and governance sub group meets at least quarterly, running in tandem with Committee meetings to scrutinise finances and governance issues and provide recommendations regarding financial planning and governance to the Committee. A strategy for ongoing monitoring of funding opportunities is in place, monitored by both the sub group and the Committee at each meeting, and the focus will be on implementing a fundraising strategy focused on securing longer term sustainability and a diversity of income sources.

Governance and Management

Women's Platform has governance structures and procedures in place to ensure appropriate decision making and implementation. The Committee is the governing body of the organisation and develops strategic plans on a three yearly basis, with annual review alongside ongoing monitoring of operational plans. The focus of review is to ensure the organisation is able to operate effectively in all circumstances, identify challenges at an early stage and develop a proactive as well as responsive approach to governance. Governance systems and procedures are reviewed on annual basis to ensure effective scrutiny as well as management of the organisation and compliance with legislation and regulations.

In 2024-25, focus was on financial security and stability, with a focus on reviewing organisational strategy and focus and adapting to an increasingly competitive and delivery oriented funding environment. Organisational policies were reviewed to ensure compliance with current legislation and good practice, and a number of policies were modernised, including financial procedures and the subsistence policy.

Operational and staff policies

The personal security of staff and volunteers, as well as the safety of beneficiaries is of the highest priority for Women's Platform. The organisation has comprehensive policies on areas including Data Protection, Privacy and Health and Safety to ensure that this risk is appropriately managed and procedures are in place to monitor and ensure compliance. Clear line management arrangements and robust HR policies are also in place to safeguard staff and volunteers, as well as the organisation as a whole.

A staff handbook, which complements contractual obligations for staff and also covers key policies guiding volunteer conduct within the organisation, is in place and reviewed for

compliance with legislation and relevance to good practice on an annual basis. Trustees have lead responsibility for monitoring operational delivery and reports on progress, as well as governance issues, are provided at each meeting.

Information Security and Continuity

Women's Platform takes data protection, privacy and data security seriously and has put in place policies and procedures designed to ensure a secure environment in relation to data collation, processing and storage. It is dependent on IT and communication systems for processing and storing data in order to operate effectively. To prevent disruption to operations due to damage to systems or unauthorised access to data Women's Platform has developed robust information and data security measures, which have been reviewed within the financial year in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Data security and effective data management was reviewed in 2024-25 and capacity building on privacy and security measures accessed to build organisational skills in this area. Women's Platform has also reviewed measures in place for remote working and is satisfied that arrangements are of a sufficient standard and information is secure for permanent flexible and hybrid working.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Compliance and Regulation

Women's Platform takes compliance with legislation and regulation very seriously and appreciates the significant damage to the organisation's reputation that could be caused due to non-compliance with legislation, regulations or codes of best practice. Women's Platform implements well-established policies and procedures and adheres to the sector's recommended codes of practice (such as Statement of Recommended Practice - SORP) to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory and legal standards.

Environmental and External Risks

Women's Platform monitors the external environment on an ongoing basis in order to anticipate political, social or economic risks, and undertakes regular review of plans in light of the changing context to ensure that plans can take account of the external environment in a way that minimises any negative impact on organisational activities or the reputation of the Organisation. Strategic review was undertaken during the year in light of the tightening financial environment as well as the changing political context, including global political uncertainty and increased demand for services within unchanged capacity. Focus throughout the year was on adapting the operational plan to meet needs identified in order to ensure the relevance of the organisation within the women's sector, among members, and as a stakeholder in policy and decision making processes. This contributed to positioning the organisation within the sector, and also enabled development of strengthening working relationships with local stakeholders as well as officials in the UK and Irish governments.

Engagement with members and partners has underlined that Women's Platform and its expertise, international experience and services are required over the longer term, and core activities during the year have demonstrated increased demand for services, underlining the relevance of the organisation to support the sector effectively carry out its role, despite the current funding environment. The vital role of the organisation in sharing international level evidence and information with the wider women's sector has continued to be highlighted, in particular through a developing role for the organisation as a conduit for the women's sector to strengthen advocacy on human rights, access international good practice and engage with UK, Ireland and EU level policy and decision makers. Financial and strategic planning will remain

focused on ensuring the long term sustainability of the organisation and will involve active identification of ways to ensure sustainability in a changing environment. The consortium approach to the Reconciliation Fund grant is an example of this, and will assist the organisation in positioning itself appropriately for the future and a likely tightening funding environment.

FUTURE PLANS

Planning for 2025-26 formed a key activity in late 2024-25 and plans include the following:

CEDAW

- Update marketing of training portfolio on CEDAW
- Build capacity on CEDAW within sector as a mechanism to expand grassroots links and access to relevant evidence
- Develop CEDAW shadow reporting
- Clarify arrangements for four nations reporting and develop devolved nations focused four nations reporting with UK sister organisations
- Continue strengthening relationships with policy and decision makers and understanding of international obligations within CEDAW
- Engage with policy and decision makers to strengthen inclusion and implementation of CEDAW and wider international human rights standards as core principles of decision making
- Coordinate women's civil society response to other international human rights processes relevant to human rights, eg. through organising event/s to publicise findings of GREVIO assessment of the UK under the Istanbul Convention

CSW

- Share learning from CSW69 within the sector to support sectoral capacity
- Deliver CSW training programme to strengthen capacity on CSW in the sector
- Support women's sector participation in CSW70; explore options for financing this longer term
- Submit a statement to CSW70
- Build understanding of CSW as core evidence based for decision making
- Engage with policy and decision makers at local and national level to highlight learning from CSW and advocating for ongoing dialogue
- Explore mechanisms to participate in wider UN mechanisms for women's rights
- Participation in CSW70
- Contribution to the UK Women's Civil Society Alliance

Women, Peace and Security

- Continue to act as secretariat to the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security
- Strengthen the All Party Group as a platform for grassroots women as well as a conduit to engagement internationally
- Strengthen links to UK and Irish governments on WPS agenda
- Lead management and coordinate as well as monitor delivery of Women's Spaces project as Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership lead partner
- Strengthen capacity building to support engagement of young women and minoritised groups in peacebuilding

- Explore mechanisms to strengthen international networking on women, peace and security, building on feasibility study completed in March 2025
- Participate in relevant national level networks, including the UK wide Gender Action for Peace and Security network (GAPS)

Local, national and international collaboration

- Continue to strengthen role as core sectoral support on international human rights mechanisms
- Prioritise outreach to groups underrepresented in current projects and membership
- Build role as liaison between local and international women's organisations and networks, to ensure access to effective good practice to support advocacy for gender equality
- Review UKJCW and develop effective four nations collaboration mechanisms
- Engage in UKJCW to ensure effective four nations collaboration
- Contribute to development of shared working across the UK
- Strengthen collaboration at European level with a view to developing effective information sharing
- Develop project relevant collaboration with women's organisations in Ireland
- Continue participation in local working groups and networks relevant to gender equality and human rights, including NI Women's Budget Group, Reclaim the Agenda and NI Human Rights Consortium
- Strengthen engagement in international networks relevant to gender equality

Communications

- Sustain strong social media presence; explore and develop new channels for engagement
- Develop good practice resources to strengthen sectoral support role
- Continue delivery of fortnightly newsletter
- Continue capacity building programmes including monthly webinar series

Organisational development

- Secure organisational sustainability to 2027-28 and implement fundraising plan focused on diversifying income sources
- Prioritise outreach and extensive engagement with members and potential members to increase membership and relevant offer to members
- Strengthen diversity and intersectional practice in organisational structures
- Undertake Committee skills and needs audit
- Develop Committee as effective and diverse governing body
- Continuing Trustee development as part of ongoing governance development
- Monitor governance and HR legislation and ensure effective compliance and up to date organisational systems

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charity is controlled by Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The Articles of Association were updated in 2021 and are reviewed annually to ensure ongoing relevance and compliance of activities with the Articles.

Governance of the Organisation

The Committee of Women's Platform is the governing body of the organisation and meets bimonthly. It is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. Delivery of the strategic plan and day to day management of operational activities is carried out by the Director, under supervision of and accountable to the Committee. The Director prepares reports in advance of each Committee meeting and performance is managed through bimonthly supervision meetings.

Committee members are appointed according to the specific skills required by the Organisation to fulfil its responsibilities as outlined in its Strategic Plan and are ratified at the AGM. Committee members are nominated by organisations who are full members of Women's Platform and are elected at the Annual General Meeting for a two year period. Office bearers are elected by the Committee from within its number for a two year period, with clear limits to mandates set in the Articles of Association. In addition, the Committee is entitled to co-opt a limited number of Committee members. A full new Committee was elected at the AGM in November 2024, with office bearers elected from within the Committee in December 2025, in line with the Articles of Association. Committee development and training needs are being monitored on an ongoing basis and strategic development sessions are being integrated into the Committee meeting calendar on an ongoing basis.

Full membership of Women's Platform is open to organisations who work primarily or exclusively with women, and full members are entitled to nominate Committee members and vote at Women's Platform general meetings. In addition, Women's Platform offers associate membership to organisations who work with women as one client group, and to any interested woman as an individual member. Associate and individual members are entitled to attend and speak at general meetings but are not entitled to vote.

Membership of Women's Platform is restricted to women aged 16 and over in line with the objects of Women's Platform, which are focused on advancing equality and human rights for women and girls, and promoting equality, diversity and community development.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI041273 (Northern Ireland)

Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland

NI108453

Recognised by HMRC as a charity for tax purposes

NI01117

Registered Office

6 Mount Charles

Belfast

Co. Antrim

BT7 1NZ

Trustees as at 31 March 2025

Emma Osborne

Chair

Aislinn Fanning

Vice Chair

Anne McVicker

Secretary

Jeanette Thornton

Treasurer

Karen Devlin

European Women's Lobby representative

Alexandra Brennan

Member

Naomi English

Member

Siobhán Harding

Member

Alexa Moore

Member

Maxine Murphy-Higgins

Member

Beverly Simpson

Member

Company Secretary

Anne McVicker

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Women's Platform Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the independent examiner undertaking the charitable company's examination is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiner undertaking the charitable company's examination is aware of that information.

SCRUTINY OF ACCOUNTS

As the organisation's current turnover is under £250,000, current charity legislation allows for independent examination to scrutinise accounts. The decision to undertake independent examination of accounts in 2019-20 was ratified at the AGM 2018 and further confirmed at the AGM 2019.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.



Anne McVicker
Company Secretary

17/07/2025

Date

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

I report on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 19 and 20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the company is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for Independent examination it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down by the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It was also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving us cause to believe:

- 1 That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
- 2 That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
- 3 That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing the accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland
- 4 That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements;

- (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

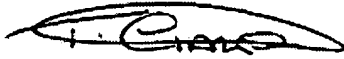
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities:

have not been met or;

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Tony Clarke FCPA
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

17/07/2025

Date:

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD
(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year to 31-Mar-25 TOTAL £	Year to 31-Mar-24 TOTAL £
Income from:					
Donations and Legacies:					
Charitable Activities:	3				
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust		-	56,835	56,835	51,667
DFA Reconciliation Fund		-	81,533	81,533	82,583
Dormant Accounts NI		-	-	-	18,832
General		1,147	-	1,147	8,945
Interest		307	-	307	233
Total Income		1,454	138,368	139,822	162,260
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	5	8,798	130,421	139,219	131,040
Total Expenditure:		8,798	130,421	139,219	131,040
Net income/(expenditure)		(7,344)	7,947	603	31,220
Transfers between funds		8,000	(8,000)	-	-
Net movement in funds		656	(53)	603	31,220
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	11	14,362	63,935	78,296	47,077
Total funds carried forward	11	15,018	63,882	78,900	78,297

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on page 21 to 27 form an integral part of these accounts

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****BALANCE SHEET**
As at 31 March 2025

	Note	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	-	-
Cash at bank		<u>79,260</u>	<u>78,537</u>
		79,260	78,537
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(360)</u>	<u>(240)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>78,900</u>	<u>78,297</u>
Net assets		<u><u>78,900</u></u>	<u><u>78,297</u></u>
Funds			
Restricted		63,882	62,376
Unrestricted		15,018	15,922
TOTAL FUNDS	11	<u><u>78,900</u></u>	<u><u>78,297</u></u>

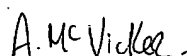
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board directors on 17/07/2025 and were signed on their behalf by:



Anne McVicker
Company Secretary

The notes on page 21 to 27 form an integral part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Womens Platform Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is: 6 Mount Charles, Belfast, BT71 NZ

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

1.4 Incoming resources (continued)

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts, VAT and other sales related taxes.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measure reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

The charity is below the charity audit threshold and therefore is exempt from reporting expenditure on an activity basis. The charity has opted to report by the nature of expenditure rather than on an activity basis.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and Fittings	15% on cost
Computers	20% on cost

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

1.9 Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1.10 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.11 Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...****2 Income from Donations and Legacies**

			2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds		
	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	-	-
Totals 2025	-	-	-	-
Totals 2024	-	-	-	-

3 Income from Charitable Activities

			2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds		
	£	£	£	£
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	56,835	56,835	51,667
DFA Reconciliation Fund	-	81,533	81,533	82,583
Dormant Accounts NI	-	-	-	18,832
General	1,147	-	1,147	8,945
Interest	307	-	307	233
Totals 2025	1,454	138,368	139,822	162,260
Totals 2024	9,178	153,082	162,260	

4 Staff Costs and Numbers

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross Wages and Salaries	42,670	42,636
	42,670	42,636

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2024: Nil)

The average monthly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
	1	1

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...****5 Expenditure**

Charitable Activities			2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds		
	£	£	£	£
Salary Costs	-	42,670	42,670	42,636
Staff travel	-	20	20	216
Telecoms	-	1,250	1,250	1,400
Rent	-	3,300	3,300	3,025
Insurance	-	1,366	1,366	1,041
Bank Fees	-	70	70	70
Accountancy	120	1,354	1,474	1,333
Hospitality	-	-	-	44
Project Costs	-	987	987	792
General Expenses	3,656	-	3,656	-
Women's Spaces DFA Rec Fund	-	72,278	72,278	72,658
CSW Expenses	5,022	-	5,022	3,793
Dormant Accounts Expenses	-	7,125	7,125	4,031
Totals 2025	8,798	130,421	139,219	131,040
Totals 2024	3,793	127,247	131,040	

6 Related party transactions

There were payments to organisations which two of the Committee members in 2023-24 were related to. Committee members are elected in an individual capacity, but Anne McVicker is related to Women's Resource and Development Agency through their paid employment.

The conflict of interest is recorded at the beginning of each Committee meeting, and the relevant Committee members do not participate in strategic, Committee level decision making on the relevant project. Additional scrutiny by the Committee is in place for this.

The payments related to Women's Spaces, a consortium project Women's Platform is leading with NIRWN, WRDA and Women's Support Network as partners. This project is reported on within the Trustee's report, and payments relate to salaries to two part time project staff, one of whom is located within NIRWN and another with WRDA, as well as project running costs to these two project partners; Women's Support Network also receives running costs as a supporting partner. The consortium arrangement has been in place from project inception and application to the Irish government Reconciliation Fund, who funds this project, and full project reporting is available from 2022-23.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

6 Related party transactions continued...

The role of Women's Platform in this project is to act as financial manager, and the project funds are budgeted overarchingly for salaries and project costs, in agreement with the funder. The net benefit to Women's Platform is running costs of £5,000 and a core costs payment of £3,000.

Women's Platform also rents office space from Women's Resource and Development Agency, at a cost of £3,300 per annum. This is regulated through a tenancy agreement.

7 Trustees remuneration & expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2024 - £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2024 - £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2024 - £NIL).

8 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
	-	-

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent Examiner's remuneration amounts to an Independent Examination fee of £360 (2024 - £240)

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals & Deferred Income	-	-
Other Creditors	360	240
	360	240

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****11 Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	10,160	56,835	(51,018)	-	15,977
DFA Reconciliation	30,328	81,533	(72,278)	(8,000)	31,584
Dormant Accounts NI	23,447	-	(7,125)	-	16,322
Total restricted funds	63,935	138,368	(130,421)	(8,000)	63,882
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Unrestricted funds	14,362	1,454	(8,798)	8,000	15,018
Total Unrestricted funds	14,362	1,454	(8,798)	8,000	15,018
Total of funds - current year	78,297	139,822	(139,219)	-	78,900

12 Statement of fund - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at 31 March 2024
Total unrestricted funds	10,476	9,178	(3,793)	(1,499)	14,362
Total restricted funds	36,601	153,082	(127,247)	1,499	63,935
Total of funds - prior year	47,077	162,260	(131,040)	-	78,297

Women's Platform Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108453

Accounts

Company registered number: NI041273

Charity Registered number: NIC108453

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Tony Clarke
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

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Statement of Financial Activities	20
Balance Sheet	21
Notes to the Financial Statements	22-28

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The company was incorporated on 03 August 2001 and registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19 April 2022.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI041273

Registered Charity number

NIC108453

Registered office

6 Mount Charles
Belfast
BT7 1NZ

CHAIRPERSON

Louise Coyle

DIRECTORS

Louise Coyle	Chair
Emma Osborne	Vice Chair
Anne McVicker	Company Secretary
Jeanette Thornton	Treasurer
Karen Devlin	European Women's Lobby representative
Alexandra Brennan	Member
Naomi English	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Aislinn Fanning	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Siobhán Harding	Member
Alexa Moore	Member
Maxine Murphy-Higgins	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Beverly Simpson	Member (elected 18 October 2023)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Tony Clarke

53 Andersontown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

Women's Platform Limited

HMRC charitable status number NI01117

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NI108453

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

Women's Platform is a membership organisation working to promote the implementation of international human rights standards in Northern Ireland, and in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in line with commitments the UK has made to international human rights treaties. Established in 1988 as the Northern Ireland link to the European Women's Lobby, Women's Platform also represents women and girls in Northern Ireland at the European and international level, including at the UN. Women's Platform is in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, which enables the organisation to engage in UN human rights processes and coordinate a Northern Ireland civil society response to these processes.

The work of Women's Platform locally focuses on building the capacity of members and the wider women's sector to utilise international human rights standards and mechanisms for women's rights in their own practice and work to promote gender equality in Northern Ireland. Women's Platform also shares evidence and good practice from international networks locally, and works with members to amplify the voice of women and girls in Northern Ireland internationally. In addition, Women's Platform contributes evidence to consultation processes and engages with policy and decision makers to highlight human rights commitments and evidence of good practice on realising gender equality. This includes work on the women, peace and security agenda in alignment with the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Women's Platform exists to advance the equality and human rights and equality of women and girls in Northern Ireland, through a number of mechanisms including education of the public, promotion of human rights and public support for human rights, commenting on proposed legislation and policy, international advocacy, promoting domestic enforcement of human rights and research into human rights issues. Women's Platform also exists to promote equality, diversity and community development through means including providing a forum for women's organisations, providing strategic and operational support to women's organisations, development and delivery of action plans concerned with improving the lives of women in Northern Ireland and influencing policy and practice in the fields of gender equality, diversity and community development.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Key activities of the Organisation

The following were the key activities of the organisation in 2023-24:

CEDAW

The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a central international human rights treaty, which the UK ratified in 1986. Women's Platform coordinates the civil society response to CEDAW in Northern Ireland, through preparing shadow reports in collaboration with members and partners, and promoting and monitoring implementation of the Committee's recommendations to the UK. In 2023-24, Women's Platform contributed an evidence submission to a follow up process on the Inquiry into abortion legislation in Northern Ireland under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, on invitation by the CEDAW Committee as one of the original instigators of the Inquiry. Women's Platform also focused on developing capacity building materials on CEDAW and highlighting the role of Northern Ireland institutions and public bodies in implementing recommendations by the CEDAW Committee, through ongoing engagement and contributions to policy making processes focused on international human rights provisions. Work on the next reporting cycle was initiated, in preparation for the reporting process originally expected in 2023-24, but delayed by the UN to 2025-26 due to UN level backlogs; this included exploring collaboration at four nations level and identifying evidence gathering mechanisms.

Women's Platform also coordinated the Northern Ireland civil society response to the Council of Europe baseline assessment of the UK under the Istanbul Convention against violence against women and girls. This involved evidence gathering in collaboration with members and stakeholders, collating an extensive evidence submission, and coordinating a roundtable meeting with the GREVIO team of experts undertaking the assessment in January 2024. In addition, Women's Platform contributed an evidence submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, who undertook a country visit to the UK in February 2024.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the UN intergovernmental body responsible for promoting the empowerment of women. Operating through annual conferences, its key role is to assist the United Nations and member states in setting policy direction on gender equality; CSW also plays a key role in monitoring progress on the implementation of gender equality through the global Sustainable Development Goals and integration of gender throughout the Goals. Women's Platform, as an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, is eligible to participate in CSW and submit evidence.

CSW68 took place 11-22 March 2024 as a primarily in person conference, on the themes of women's poverty and social protection. The conference is increasingly returning to in person delivery, and a significant focus during the year was securing funding for a delegation to participate in CSW68, with a number of business cases made and extensive engagement undertaken with a range of Northern Ireland institutions and organisations with a view to securing funding. While this proved difficult in light of the very tight Northern Ireland budget 2023-24, engagement built understanding of CSW and its relevance to Northern Ireland, and contributed to strengthened interest and capacity at policy and decision maker level, enabling strengthened advocacy of inclusion of international models of good practice and international human rights standards in decision making. A small delegation was ultimately supported through using Women's Platform reserves, as the trustees deemed attendance in person in New York for meeting organisational aims and strengthening the organisation's international profile. Securing and organising the delegation, including capacity building and engagement with the sector through meetings and a webinar organised on International Women's Day, was a core part of work in the last quarter of 2023-24. A report will be prepared to support efforts to secure external resourcing for participation in CSW in 2025.

The delegation took part in CSW68 during the first week of the conference, and focused on gathering evidence, examples of good practice and learning from governments, international networks and global civil society, in line with needs and priorities identified in collaboration with members and stakeholders in the women's sector in Northern Ireland. Virtual participation of local organisations in CSW68 was supported through sharing updates and information on events and programming live streamed through UN WebTV and online conferencing platforms, and a full report prepared to enable the wider sector to utilise learning. Women's Platform also organised a virtual side event on Feminist economics: A solution to women's poverty, which focused on highlighting research on the impact of the cost of living crisis on women in Northern Ireland and exploring gender budgeting as a systematic tool to address this, with examples of pilots and existing practice from countries including Malaysia, Iceland and the UK shared. This event received positive feedback and identified a number of concrete international learning and collaboration opportunities, which will be developed as core work in 2024-25.

Women's Platform also engaged with both the UK and Irish governments at CSW68 and emphasised gender budgeting as a tool for ending women's poverty, while also advocating for foreign and domestic policy coherence to encourage and enable addressing global inequalities. This process contributed to developing links with policy makers, as a basis for longer term advocacy and engagement.

Women's Platform also made submissions to the UN High Level Political Forum, which monitors progress on delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the UN Summit for the Future, which seeks to develop a new commitment to multilateral action on key global priorities. The SDGs and building international networks are increasingly a priority of Women's Platform work, and further development of this area of work will be a priority in 2024-25.

At the UK level, Women's Platform participated in the UK NGO CSW Alliance, a coalition of women's organisations engaged with CSW. The role of Women's Platform is to ensure a strong voice for women and girls in Northern Ireland, and the focus of collaboration in 2023-24 was on advocating for a clear voice for devolved administrations and a strengthened understanding of devolution and its implications at the UK level. Similar collaboration with the European Women's Lobby is developing, with a view to ensuring that EU level organisations and actors have an understanding of events and priorities in the UK.

European Women's Lobby

The European Women's Lobby is the umbrella network for women's networks in Europe. Women's Platform is a core member of the UK Joint Committee on Women, which acts as the coordination of the UK membership of the European Women's Lobby, across the devolved administrations. Women's Platform also participates in the European Women's Lobby, including relevant sub networks, and acted as the UK Board member until June 2023, when Board membership passed on in accordance with an agreed four nations rotation. Support to the new Board member and alternate was provided and Women's Platform continued to engage with the Lobby to ensure a clear transition and continued engagement of the UK with the Lobby, which in January 2024 approved new statutes confirming the UK as a key member of the network, in post Brexit arrangements. with a mandate 2021-23, and a focus on ensuring effective information sharing between women's networks in Europe and the UK. Women's Platform participated in the steering group for a research project studying the impact of Brexit on women in Northern Ireland, and contributed to developing links between stakeholders in Northern Ireland and the Lobby, as well as the UK Mission to the EU.

Women's Platform also led work to explore a renewal of the UK Joint Committee on Women, following a period of significant change in constituent organisations. This included exploring perspectives and priorities across the four partner organisations in relation to four nations and European level collaboration, and identified core elements for a review to be undertaken in early 2024-25.

Women, Peace and Security

Women's Platform provides the secretariat for the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group (APG) on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security. During the year, the APG continued its active role in dialogue on gender equality in Northern Ireland and acted as a link between decision making structures and the sector, despite the lack of functioning institutions for most of 2023-24. A cross party leadership team was elected at the AGM in June 2023, confirming a broad base of support for the APG.

The cost of living crisis and violence against women and girls were core priorities for the APG, which engaged with the Northern Ireland Civil Service to highlight these issues as priorities for decision making. The APG also initiated arrangements and hosted an event marking the Good Friday Agreement from a women's perspective in June 2023, which attracted almost 100 women and identified a strong need for further opportunities for engagement between grassroots women and decision makers. The APG initiated engagement between the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and the sector, and championed engagement with local government as an important driver of action relevant to gender equality and meeting women's needs at local level.

Women's Platform built further links with GAPS, the UK network on women, peace and security, and through this contributed to development of action under the UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2023-27. This action plan for the first time includes Northern Ireland, following strong advocacy at the policy development stage, and this identified new opportunities for engagement with the Northern Ireland Office as a key link between the UK government and devolved institutions. In addition, Women's Platform contributed to the GAPS annual shadow report on the UK National Action Plan on women, peace and security.

Following long term work to develop relationships with the Irish Government, which includes Northern Ireland in its National Action Plan on women, peace and security, Women's Platform in collaboration with Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA), Women's Support Network (WSN) and Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN) successfully secured a three year Strategic Partnership project within the Reconciliation Fund in 2022-23, which was developed further in 2023-24. The project is a three year capacity building and advocacy programme, which during the year focused on capacity building, developing links with grassroots women and initiating a toolkit, which will be the key deliverable from the project. Women's Platform takes a project coordination and financial management role within the project, which is delivered by two part time project coordinators employed through project partners WRDA and NIRWN. During the year, Women's Platform led strategic development and monitoring of the project, and also contributed concrete operational support to project coordinators, in particular in relation to managing budgets and timelines.

During the year, there was an emphasis on developing clear needs and priorities to set a framework for the toolkit, along with outreach to new grassroots groups and enabling women new to the issues to build confidence in sharing their views, voices and stories. Women's Platform coordinated strategic and operational planning, and assisted project coordinators in developing operational action plans. The organisation also took lead in engaging with an longitudinal evaluator and implementing action to address recommendations from the first interim report, as well as engaging with the funder and reporting on progress. The project enabled development of further strong links with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, and has identified a significant demand for skill building on women, peace and security in Northern Ireland. Plans for Year 3 were developed on the basis of an interim in year evaluation and focus on delivering a toolkit, including securing resources for a digital version of the toolkit, identified as a core need by project participants.

Local alliance building and advocacy

Women's Platform remains an active member of the NI Women's Policy Group and worked closely with the Women's Sector Lobbyist to develop advocacy for gender equality in policy and decision making, including development of the APG on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security. In 2023-24, this focused on strengthening the international human rights element in sectoral policy submissions, and Women's Platform became established as the go-to organisation on international human rights standards, as well as the key source of information and expertise on good practice from international networks, with the fortnightly newsletter playing a key role in building sector capacity on key international issues and events relevant to gender equality, as well as good practice. This contributed to stronger, more effective and streamlined policy submissions, which focused on the impact of budget cuts on women, violence against women and girls, as well as submissions to the UK House of Commons and House of Lords on consultations primarily exploring post Brexit arrangements. This also included representing a gender equality perspective in direct engagement with political decision makers, including the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland as well as the five main parties in Northern Ireland. Evidence shared by Women's Platform was highlighted within the draft Ending Violence against Women and Girls strategy that was published for consultation in July 2023, which also incorporated international human rights standards within its core framework.

Women's Platform is also an active member of NI Women's Budget group and participates in Reclaim the Agenda. Through securing funding for strengthening communications with members and partners, Women's Platform is currently focusing on strengthening information sharing and capacity building to the wider sector in Northern Ireland. In 2023-24, there was a focus on strengthening the organisation's social media presence, which positively contributed to visibility and engagement with new stakeholders.

Communications

Through a grant from Dormant Accounts Fund NI, Women's Platform secured resourcing in 2022 to invest in developing communications of the organisation, which has been identified as a priority to strengthen engagement with and support to members and partners, and also support recruitment of members. This work in 2023-24 focused on exploring core priorities, including identifying key audiences, key messages and clarifying communications needs. It also identified a need to strengthen social media presence as a mechanism for increasing membership, and this was a focus particular in quarter 3. Intensified and refined social media presence, including a new Instagram account, contributed to increasing recognition of the organisation and identified key areas of development needed to engage new members and stakeholders, in particular young women as an underrepresented group in the organisation's activities.

Extraordinary activity: Action and adaptation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Working practices in 2023-24 were increasingly in line with pre pandemic practice, with in person meetings the norm in particular for engagement with grassroots women. However, Women's Platform has embedded a culture of hybrid working, with a view to maximising efficiency and capacity of the organisation. It is anticipated that hybrid working is retained as the normalised practice, with remote working the norm during quieter periods, but in person delivery and engagement prioritised within projects.

Women's Platform moved to remote working in March 2020 and was able to continue delivery of the strategic and operational plan with relatively limited restrictions. Arrangements were put in place to meet organisational policies and procedures, in particular regarding information and data security. Learning from this process highlighted the value of flexible working and the increased access to international networks through online platforms, and this has fundamentally shaped the organisation's work for the long term. As the core link between the sector in Northern Ireland and the international level, Women's Platform values the flexibility and accessibility provided by virtual platforms, with the majority of events retained online to secure access for the widest number of people, and enable engagement with experts and stakeholders internationally as well as locally. This received positive feedback in particular from rural stakeholders, for whom access remained difficult in particular due to the cost of living crisis, which increased travel and transport costs significantly. International networking has now been embedded in organisational practice, and is strengthening the organisation's capacity to support the sector significantly.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to guidance produced by the Charity Commission regarding Public Benefit.

Directors

The following constituted the directors of Women's Platform as of 31 March 2024:

Louise Coyle	Chair
Emma Osborne	Vice Chair
Anne McVicker	Company Secretary
Jeanette Thornton	Treasurer
Karen Devlin	European Women's Lobby representative
Alexandra Brennan	Member
Naomi English	Member (elected 18 October 2023)

Aislinn Fanning	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Siobhán Harding	Member
Alexa Moore	Member
Maxine Murphy-Higgins	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Beverly Simpson	Member (elected 18 October 2023)

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Position

The detailed financial results for the year ended 31 March 2024 are shown on the financial statements, which accompany this report. During the year, Women's Platform successfully delivered on all of its three existing grants, including the core grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, which secured the organisation for 2022-25. In March 2024, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust also confirmed a cost of living increase in light of increased costs in 2024, which contributes to securing the organisation throughout the core grant period. Work was initiated on a new core grant to ensure organisational sustainability.

Women's Platform also secured a second installment of a three year grant from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, as one of the Strategic Partnerships under its Reconciliation Fund. This project is a consortium with Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network, Women's Resource and Development Agency and Women's Support Network, and enables supporting two part time staff embedded within WRDA and NIRWN, with overall project management and financial oversight provided by Women's Platform, subject to minimal core costs for this function, which contribute to securing the organisation and add to overall sustainability of the organisation. The project follows impactful delivery by Women's Platform on initiatives promoting the women, peace and security agenda over the long term, and highlights the value funders place in the organisation as a coordination for cross sectoral action. The project is progressing well and the funder has indicated strong interest in its outcomes, which indicates a positive starting point for the future. In addition, the project is strengthening the organisation's skills and capacity in consortium working, which are likely to be important in future fundraising in light of the tightening financial environment.

In May 2022, Women's Platform secured a two year grant from the Dormant Accounts Fund Northern Ireland to develop communications and enable the organisation to act as an effective support to members and the wider women's sector on international human rights frameworks and international good practice. The grant provides funding for an external communications consultant to lead on communications development, along with funding for communications deliverables. There was an underspend on this project in 2023-24 due to limitations in the capacity of the contractor, which were outside the control of Women's Platform; permission from the funder to reprofile this was sought and granted, with the project extended to June 2025. This delay also enabled more detailed consideration of needs and priorities, and as a result, the reprofiled budget will support a more precise and detailed operational plan, which is focused on meeting specific information needs in the wider sector and thus strengthen the organisation's role within the sector. This, in turn, will allow for more effective outreach to existing and potential members and will, in extension, strengthen the organisation's capacity to sustain and strengthen operations beyond 2025.

Reserves Policy

Women's Platform maintains a prudent level of reserves to enable the organisation to deliver the strategic plan. The objective is that the organisation would be able to carry on its work, even if faced with a combination of difficult circumstances, and have the time to adjust its strategy to

meet these changing circumstances. The Committee will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on an annual basis and is actively working to identify funding opportunities that will secure a level of reserves identified as appropriate, while strengthening the organisation's financial resilience as well as its ability to capitalise on opportunities that may arise beyond the core strategic plan.

In 2023-24, a decision was made to utilise a proportion of available reserves to support a delegation of two representatives to the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference in New York. The trustees undertook a feasibility assessment against a detailed business case setting out a strictly managed budget for this, and determined that authorising this expenditure was prudent and relevant in relation to delivering the strategic plan, specifically in relation to strengthening the organisation's international profile and its capacity to act as a platform for women in Northern Ireland at the international level. A fundraising strategy will be developed in 2024-25 with a focus on increasing unrestricted income and enable conservative development of reserves to account for this investment. The trustees in their risk assessment ensured that reserves remain at an acceptable level to meet any unexpected circumstances.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal Risks & Uncertainties

Risk Policy and Internal Control Framework

Women's Platform has put in place a risk management process, which seeks to ensure that the organisation is able to operate effectively in all circumstances. The Committee has primary responsibility for risk management and is undertaking annual risk review with a view to strengthening organisational resilience and ability to effectively monitor, prepare for and react to the main strategic, business and operational risks facing the organisation.

Women's Platform has reviewed and updated a risk review, informed by learning from the Covid-19 crisis, and put in place measures to safeguard the organisation. With a core grant in place for 2022-25 and sustained core project funding in place through the Reconciliation Fund grant, the organisation is financially stable and focusing on revenue funding in line with the strategic plan.

Financial Stability

The Trustees deem the organisation to be financially stable and a going concern in the current circumstance, with the three year core cost grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust in place until 2022-25 and sustainable funding for core projects in place until June 2025. The additional Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership grant, while shared with consortium members who will carry out the majority of concrete work, confirms the role of the organisation within the women's sector and wider civil society in Northern Ireland, and provides a good basis for further developing relationships with the Irish government as a major current funder of activities relevant to the women's sector, as well as identifying additional revenue funding opportunities.

The Committee has for several years involved a finance sub group to oversee long term financial planning, scrutinise financial management of the organisation and review budgets on an ongoing basis, which also scrutinises governance arrangements and legal compliance. The finance and governance sub group meets at least quarterly, running in tandem with Committee meetings to scrutinise finances and governance issues and provide recommendations regarding financial planning and governance to the Committee. A strategy for ongoing monitoring of funding opportunities is in place, monitored by both the sub group and the Committee at each meeting, and a fundraising strategy will be developed in early 2024-25 to further strengthen organisational resilience and stability.

Governance and Management

Women's Platform has governance structures and procedures in place to ensure appropriate decision making and implementation. The Committee is the governing body of the organisation and develops strategic plans on a three yearly basis, with annual review alongside ongoing monitoring of operational plans. The focus of review is to ensure the organisation is able to operate effectively in all circumstances, identify challenges at an early stage and develop a proactive as well as responsive approach to governance. Governance systems and procedures are reviewed on annual basis to ensure effective scrutiny as well as management of the organisation and compliance with legislation and regulations.

In 2023-24, organisational policies were reviewed to ensure compliance with current legislation and good practice, and a number of policies were modernised, including financial procedures and the subsistence policy.

Operational and staff policies

The personal security of staff and volunteers, as well as the safety of beneficiaries is of the highest priority for Women's Platform. The organisation has comprehensive policies on areas including Data Protection, Privacy and Health and Safety to ensure that this risk is appropriately managed and procedures are in place to monitor and ensure compliance. Clear line management arrangements and robust HR policies are also in place to safeguard staff and volunteers, as well as the organisation as a whole.

A staff handbook, which complements contractual obligations for staff and also covers key policies guiding volunteer conduct within the organisation, is in place and reviewed for compliance with legislation and relevance to good practice on an annual basis. Trustees have lead responsibility for monitoring operational delivery and reports on progress, as well as governance issues, are provided at each meeting.

Information Security and Continuity

Women's Platform takes data protection, privacy and data security seriously and has put in place policies and procedures designed to ensure a secure environment in relation to data collation, processing and storage. It is dependent on IT and communication systems for processing and storing data in order to operate effectively. To prevent disruption to operations due to damage to systems or unauthorised access to data Women's Platform has developed robust information and data security measures, which have been reviewed within the financial year in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Data security and effective data management was reviewed in 2023-24 and capacity building on privacy and security measures accessed to build organisational skills in this area. Women's Platform has also reviewed measures in place for remote working and is satisfied that arrangements are of a sufficient standard and information is secure for permanent flexible and hybrid working.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Compliance and Regulation

Women's Platform takes compliance with legislation and regulation very seriously and appreciates the significant damage to the organisation's reputation that could be caused due to non-compliance with legislation, regulations or codes of best practice. Women's Platform implements well-established policies and procedures and adheres to the sector's recommended

codes of practice (such as Statement of Recommended Practice - SORP) to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory and legal standards.

Environmental and External Risks

Women's Platform monitors the external environment on an ongoing basis in order to anticipate political, social or economic risks, and undertakes regular review of plans in light of the changing context to ensure that plans can take account of the external environment in a way that minimises any negative impact on organisational activities or the reputation of the Organisation. Strategic review was undertaken during the year in light of the cost of living crisis and tightening financial environment as well as the changing political context, including political uncertainty and ongoing development of post Brexit arrangements; focus throughout the year was on adapting the operational plan to meet needs identified in order to ensure the relevance of the organisation within the women's sector, among members, and as a stakeholder in policy and decision making processes. This contributed to positioning the organisation within the sector, and also enabled development of new working relationships with local stakeholders as well as officials in the UK and Irish governments.

Engagement with members and partners has underlined that Women's Platform and its expertise, international experience and services are required over the longer term, and core activities during the year have demonstrated increased demand for services, underlining the relevance of the organisation in the current environment. The vital role of the organisation in sharing international level evidence and information with the wider women's sector has continued to be highlighted, in particular through a developing role for the organisation as a conduit for the women's sector to strengthen advocacy on human rights, access international good practice and engage with UK, Ireland and EU level policy and decision makers. Financial and strategic planning will remain focused on ensuring the long term sustainability of the organisation and will involve active identification of ways to ensure sustainability in a changing environment. The consortium approach to the Reconciliation Fund grant is an example of this, and will assist the organisation in positioning itself appropriately for the future and a likely tightening funding environment.

FUTURE PLANS

Planning for 2024-25 formed a key activity in late 2023-24 and plans include the following:

CEDAW

- Update marketing of training portfolio on CEDAW
- Build capacity on CEDAW and reporting process among members and stakeholders as part of outreach designed to build membership
- Undertake evidence gathering for CEDAW shadow reporting
- Prepare initial CEDAW shadow report
- Develop four nations report with UK sister organisations
- Continue strengthening relationships with policy and decision makers and understanding of international obligations within CEDAW
- Engage with policy and decision makers to strengthen inclusion and implementation of CEDAW and wider international human rights standards as core principles of decision making

- Coordinate women's civil society response to other international human rights processes relevant to human rights, eg. through organising event/s to publicise findings of GREVIO assessment of the UK under the Istanbul Convention

CSW

- Secure resources for women's sector delegation to attend CSW69 in person
- Deliver CSW training programme to strengthen capacity on CSW in the sector
- Support women's sector participation in CSW69
- Submit a statement to CSW69
- Identify opportunities for strengthened engagement with CSW by both civil society and officials in Northern Ireland
- Engage with policy and decision makers at local and national level to highlight learning from CSW and advocating for use of international evidence and good practice in decision making
- Explore mechanisms to participate in wider UN mechanisms for women's rights
- Participation in CSW69
- Contribution to the UK Women's Civil Society Alliance

Women, Peace and Security

- Continue to act as secretariat to the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security
- Strengthen the All Party Group as a platform for grassroots women to engage with policy and decision making
- Build the role of the APG as a mechanism for bringing women's priorities into policy making debate
- Lead management and coordinate as well as monitor delivery of Women's Spaces project as Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership lead partner
- Develop organisational work and capacity on engaging young women on peacebuilding
- Develop capacity building resources on UNSCR 1325 for members, stakeholders and policy makers
- Explore mechanisms to strengthen international networking on women, peace and security
- Participate in relevant national level networks, including the UK wide Gender Action for Peace and Security network (GAPS)

Local, national and international collaboration

- Continue to strengthen role within Women's Policy Group as lead on international human rights mechanisms
- Prioritise outreach to groups underrepresented in current projects and membership
- Strengthen support to sector through improved communication and information sharing
- Review UKJCW and develop effective four nations collaboration mechanisms
- Engage in UKJCW to ensure effective four nations collaboration
- Contribute to development of shared working across the UK
- Strengthen collaboration at European level with a view to developing new relationships in a post Brexit setting
- Develop project relevant collaboration with women's organisations in Ireland

- Continue participation in local working groups and networks relevant to gender equality and human rights, including NI Women's Budget Group, Reclaim the Agenda and NI Human Rights Consortium
- Strengthen engagement in international networks relevant to gender equality

Communications

- Develop clear communications development plan with Communications contractor
- Develop website as information resource
- Continue delivery of fortnightly newsletter
- Develop information resources on human rights mechanisms and core women's rights mechanisms
- Continue strengthening social media identity and presence

Organisational development

- Prioritise outreach and extensive engagement with members and potential members to increase membership and relevant offer to members
- Strengthen diversity and intersectional practice in organisational structures
- Undertake Committee skills and needs audit
- Undertake member survey to support strategic review and preparation of new core grant application
- Develop initiatives with young women and minoritised women in line with identified needs
- Develop Committee as effective and diverse governing body
- Continuing Trustee development as part of ongoing governance development
- Develop new core grant application and strategic plan for 2025-28
- Monitor and identify additional funding opportunities in line with funding strategy
- Monitor finances and ensure high quality financial management arrangements

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charity is controlled by Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The Articles of Association were updated in 2021 and are reviewed annually to ensure ongoing relevance and compliance of activities with the Articles.

Governance of the Organisation

The Committee of Women's Platform is the governing body of the organisation and meets bimonthly. It is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. Delivery of the strategic plan and day to day management of operational activities is carried out by the Director, under supervision of and accountable to the Committee. The Director prepares reports in advance of each Committee meeting and performance is managed through bimonthly supervision meetings.

Committee members are appointed according to the specific skills required by the Organisation to fulfil its responsibilities as outlined in its Strategic Plan and are ratified at the AGM. Committee members are nominated by organisations who are full members of Women's Platform and are elected at the Annual General Meeting for a two year period. Office bearers are elected by the Committee from within its number for a two year period, with clear limits to mandates set in the Articles of Association. In addition, the Committee is entitled to co-opt a limited number of Committee members. Four new members from diverse backgrounds were elected in 2023, and will serve over the years 2024 and 2025, while elections for up to 10 additional members will take place as part of the AGM 2024 process. Committee development and training needs are being monitored on an ongoing basis and strategic development sessions are being integrated into the Committee meeting calendar from the beginning of 2024-25. Support needs of Committee members will be reviewed and relevant measures put in place to safeguard and strengthen the effectiveness, integrity and expertise of the Committee.

Full membership of Women's Platform is open to organisations who work primarily or exclusively with women, and full members are entitled to nominate Committee members and vote at Women's Platform general meetings. In addition, Women's Platform offers associate membership to organisations who work with women as one client group, and to any interested woman as an individual member. Associate and individual members are entitled to attend and speak at general meetings but are not entitled to vote.

Membership of Women's Platform is restricted to women aged 16 and over in line with the objects of Women's Platform, which are focused on advancing equality and human rights for women and girls, and promoting equality, diversity and community development.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
NI041273 (Northern Ireland)

Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
NIC108453

Recognised by HMRC as a charity for tax purposes
NI01117

Registered Office

6 Mount Charles
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT7 1NZ

Trustees as at 31 March 2024

Louise Coyle	Chair
Emma Osborne	Vice Chair
Anne McVicker	Secretary
Jeanette Thornton	Treasurer
Karen Devlin	European Women's Lobby representative
Alexandra Brennan	Member
Naomi English	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Aislinn Fanning	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Siobhán Harding	Member
Alexa Moore	Member
Maxine Murphy-Higgins	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Beverly Simpson	Member (elected 18 October 2023)

Company Secretary
Anne McVicker

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Women's Platform Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

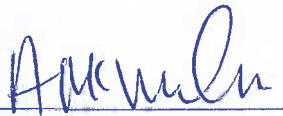
In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the independent examiner undertaking the charitable company's examination is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiner undertaking the charitable company's examination is aware of that information.

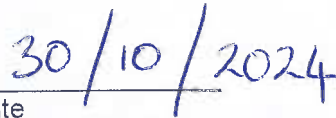
SCRUTINY OF ACCOUNTS

As the organisation's current turnover is under £250,000, current charity legislation allows for independent examination to scrutinise accounts. The decision to undertake independent examination of accounts in 2019-20 was ratified at the AGM 2018 and further confirmed at the AGM 2019.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.



Anne McVicker
Company Secretary



Date

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)
**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

I report on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 20 and 21.

This report is made solely to the company's Trustees, as a body in accordance with section 65(3)(a) of the Charities Act Northern Ireland 2008 and regulations made under section 66 of the Act. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's Trustees as a body, for my work of this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the company's Trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purpose of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the company is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for Independent examination.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It was also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

Independent examiner's statement

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

- 1 That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
- 2 That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
- 3 That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
- 4 That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Tony Clarke
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

Date: 11/12/24

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year to 31-Mar-24 TOTAL	Year to 31-Mar-23 TOTAL
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and Legacies:					
Charitable Activities: 3					
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust		-	51,667	51,667	53,761
DFA Reconciliation Fund		-	82,583	82,583	80,960
Dormant Accounts NI		-	18,832	18,832	9,416
Engender 1/4 of UK EWL Membership		-	-	-	660
General		8,945	-	8,945	438
Interest		233	-	233	195
Total Income		9,178	153,082	162,260	145,430
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	5	3,793	127,247	131,040	120,588
Total Expenditure:		3,793	127,247	131,040	120,588
Net income/(expenditure)		5,385	25,835	31,220	24,843
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		5,385	25,835	31,220	24,843
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	11	10,537	36,541	47,077	22,234
Total funds carried forward	11	15,922	62,376	78,297	47,077

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on page 22 to 28 form an integral part of these accounts

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2024

	Note	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	-	-
Cash at bank		<u>78,537</u>	<u>55,317</u>
		78,537	55,317
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(240)</u>	<u>(8,240)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>78,297</u>	<u>47,077</u>
Net assets		<u>78,297</u>	<u>47,077</u>
Funds			
Restricted		62,376	36,541
Unrestricted		15,922	10,537
TOTAL FUNDS	11	<u>78,297</u>	<u>47,077</u>

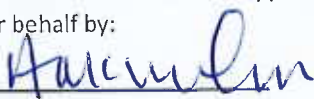
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board directors on and were signed on their behalf by:


Anne McVicker

Company Secretary

The notes on page 22 to 28 form an integral part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Womens Platform Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is: 6 Mount Charles, Belfast, BT71 NZ

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

1.4 Incoming resources (continued)

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts, VAT and other sales related taxes.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measure reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

The charity is below the charity audit threshold and therefore is exempt from reporting expenditure on an activity basis. The charity has opted to report by the nature of expenditure rather than on an activity basis.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and Fittings	15% on cost
Computers	20% on cost

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...**1.9 Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1.10 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.11 Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD
 (Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

2 Income from Donations and Legacies

	2024		2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	-	-
Totals 2024	-	-	-	-
Totals 2023	-	-	-	-

3 Income from Charitable Activities

	2024		2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	51,667	51,667	53,761
DFA Reconciliation Fund	-	82,583	82,583	80,960
Dormant Accounts NI	-	18,832	18,832	9,416
Engender 1/4 of UK EWL Membership	-	-	-	660
General	8,945	-	8,945	438
Interest	233	-	233	195
Totals 2024	9,178	153,082	162,260	145,430
Totals 2023	633	144,797	145,430	145,430

4 Staff Costs and Numbers

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross Wages and Salaries	42,636	41,006
	42,636	41,006

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2023: Nil)

The average monthly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
	1	1

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD
 (Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

5 Expenditure

Charitable Activities			2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	£	£
Salary Costs	-	42,636	42,636	41,006
Staff travel	-	216	216	787
Telecoms	-	1,400	1,400	1,256
Rent	-	3,025	3,025	3,300
Insurance	-	1,041	1,041	981
Bank Fees	-	70	70	61
Accountancy	-	1,333	1,333	1,474
Stationery	-	-	-	120
Hospitality	-	44	44	736
New Identity	-	-	-	1,440
Project Costs	-	792	792	2,772
UNSCR 1325 Project	-	-	-	5,093
Women's Spaces DFA Rec Fund	-	72,658	72,658	60,557
IT & Comms Equipment	-	-	-	234
CSW Expenses	3,793	-	3,793	-
Dormant Accounts NI	-	4,031	4,031	770
Totals 2024	3,793	127,247	131,040	120,588
Totals 2023	-	120,588	120,588	

6 Related party transactions

There were payments to organisations which two of the Committee members in 2023-24 were related to. Committee members are elected in an individual capacity, but Louise Coyle is related to Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network and Anne McVicker is related to Women's Resource and Development Agency through their paid employment.

The conflict of interest is recorded at the beginning of each Committee meeting, and the relevant Committee members do not participate in strategic, Committee level decision making on the relevant project. Additional scrutiny by the Committee is in place for this.

The payments related to Women's Spaces, a consortium project Women's Platform is leading with NIRWN, WRDA and Women's Support Network as partners. This project is reported on within the Trustee's report, and payments relate to salaries to two part time project staff, one of whom is located within NIRWN and another with WRDA, as well as project running costs to these two project partners; Women's Support Network also receives running costs as a supporting partner. The consortium arrangement has been in place from project inception and application to the Irish government Reconciliation Fund, who funds this project, and full project reporting is available from 2022-23.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

6 Related party transactions continued...

The role of Women's Platform in this project is to act as financial manager, and the project funds are budgeted overarchingly for salaries and project costs, in agreement with the funder. The net benefit to Women's Platform is running costs of £5,000 and a core costs payment of £3,000.

Women's Platform also rents office space from Women's Resource and Development Agency, at a cost of £3,300 per annum. This is regulated through a tenancy agreement.

7 Trustees remuneration & expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2023 - £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2023 - £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2023 - £NIL).

8 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
	-	-

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent Examiner's remuneration amounts to an Independent Examination fee of £240 (2023 - £240)

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals & Deferred Income	-	-
Other Creditors	240	8,240
	240	8,240

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD
 (Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11 Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	8,871	51,667	(50,558)	179	10,160
DFA Reconciliation Fund	(587)	-	-	587	-
DFA Reconciliation	20,403	82,583	(72,658)	-	30,328
Engender 1/4 of UK EWL Membershi	660	-	-	(660)	-
Dormant Accounts NI	8,646	18,832	(4,031)	-	23,447
The National Lottery Fund	(1,393)	-	-	1,393	-
Total restricted funds	36,601	153,082	(127,247)	1,499	63,935
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Unrestricted funds	10,476	9,178	(3,793)	(1,499)	14,362
Total Unrestricted funds	10,476	9,178	(3,793)	(1,499)	14,362
Total of funds - current year	47,077	162,260	(131,040)	-	78,297

12 Statement of fund - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at 31 March 2023
Total unrestricted funds	9,903	633	(60)	-	10,476
Total restricted funds	12,391	144,797	(120,588)	-	36,601
Total of funds - prior year	22,294	145,430	(120,648)	-	47,077

Women's Platform Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108453

Annual report

Women's Platform

Annual Report 2024



WHO WE ARE

Women's Platform is a membership organisation that works to amplify the voices of women and girls in Northern Ireland at national and international levels, and build platforms for women and girls to share their priorities internationally through:

- ⇒ Acting as the Northern Ireland coordination to the European Women's Lobby
- ⇒ Working collaboratively in the UK, as part of the UK Joint Committee on Women
- ⇒ Representing Northern Ireland at the United Nations, as an NGO with Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC

Within Northern Ireland, Women's Platform works to

- 1) build capacity on international standards for gender equality
- 2) share learning from international agencies and networks
- 3) advocate for gender responsive policy and decision making

Aims and Objectives

Women's Platform exists to advance equality and human rights for women and girls and promote equality, diversity and community development, through mechanisms including:

- the provision of a forum for women's organisations
- international advocacy of human rights
- promoting respect for human rights and gender equality among individuals, governments, corporations and other institutions
- commenting on proposed gender discrimination legislation and providing technical and policy advice to statutory bodies and other agencies, organisations and institutions

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CHAIR'S REPORT

I'm delighted to present this annual report, which is my first as Chair of Women's Platform. The year has been positive and demonstrates significant delivery, in particular within the advocacy and collaboration areas of work following the return of institutions in February 2024.

Women's Platform was very pleased to see the Executive and Assembly back, and is hopeful that stable institutions will enable a new focus on rights based, inclusive decision making. The inclusion of childcare and ending violence against women and girls in the draft Programme for Government are positive signs, and Women's Platform is encouraged that the Ending Violence against Women and Girls is based in international human rights standards, while also resourced to support new areas of action.



For Women's Platform, the year was characterised by bridge building and new relationships. In person participation at the Commission on the Status of Women 68 in March was a particular highlight, demonstrating the value of investment in international engagement, as the delegation gained significant new learning and connections that have informed all our work over the year and contributed to identifying new opportunities. The role of Women's Platform as a bridge builder was further highlighted during the year, in particular through revitalising four nations collaboration and exploring new engagement with the European Women's Lobby. This area of work is vital in the current global context of a growing backlash on rights, and Women's Platform is committed to building effective international collaboration, as well as East-West and five nations working.

Funding international travel is a challenge for all charities, and Women's Platform is hopeful that these clearly demonstrable benefits can assist in exploring ways to support this, particularly through public sector collaboration. In particular, learning has informed significant advocacy work since the return of institutions, which is highlighting the urgent need for a gender lens in decision making. In this light, it was disappointing to learn that the Gender Equality strategy and LGBT strategy will be delayed, and Women's Platform will utilise both advocacy and capacity building programmes to support and amplify calls for leadership on this, as a basis for sustainable and equitable development of Northern Ireland.

I would also like to highlight the Women's Spaces project, delivered as a consortium with Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network, Women's Resource and Development Agency and Women's Support Network, which developed significantly over the year, and has demonstrated both the value of capacity building and

keen interest of women to participate in public life. Over 400 women across Northern Ireland have engaged with Women's Spaces to date, and the programme is highlighting the need for mechanisms for women to be heard in decision making, which will be a priority also for Women's Platform in the coming year.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Women's Platform Committee for their commitment, enthusiasm and support, and in particular the previous Chair Louise Coyle, who led significant work in modernising governance and increasing diversity on the Committee. We are very aware of the challenging circumstances around us, and our focus in the coming year will be on securing long term sustainability for the organisation, while further strengthening intersectional practice, and introducing new and accessible engagement mechanisms for women of all backgrounds. I would also like to thank our funders for their continued support, which provides an invaluable foundation that allows development and innovation, and inspires us daily to go further. Importantly, I would like to thank our Director, Jonna Monaghan, for her steadfast commitment to ensuring that Women's Platform is continuously developing and improving, while working domestically, regionally and internationally to advocate for all women and girls in Northern Ireland.

Finally, as Chair I would like to confirm that the Committee has given due consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit.

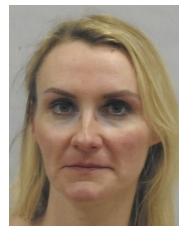


Emma Osborne
Chair

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I'm pleased to share this Annual Report of Women's Platform, which highlights focused delivery and relationship building.

Following return of the Executive and Assembly, there was a significant focus on engagement with decision makers, and responding to consultations. This process highlighted the vital importance of strong advocacy for rights based decision making, and underlined the need for capacity building on international standards. Training programmes and webinars sharing good practice from international networks were highlights of the year, and feedback shows participants feel they gain confidence to engage in decision making processes.



The same was very evident in the work of the Women's Spaces consortium, which was very active and identified a keen interest of women to engage in policy and decision making at all levels. This demonstrates the contribution of Women's Platform to the sector, and it is encouraging that mechanisms such as the All Party Group on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security also has taken an open and inclusive approach to its work. Over the next year, focus will be on strengthening long term work in this area, including preparation for CEDAW examination, and widening the capacity building offer.

The diversity of the Committee has significantly enhanced the capacity of Women's Platform to respond to the needs of different audiences of women and girls, and has widened perspectives. This has in particular informed a strengthened focus on communications, which has included building an Instagram presence, and introducing a podcast series due to launch shortly. It is hoped that in person participation in the Commission on the Status of Women can continue as a mechanism to platform women and girls in Northern Ireland at the international level; however, relationships built have already identified ways to strengthen this capacity and next year will focus on building new opportunities for this.

I would like to thank the Committee for their ongoing commitment and support, with particular thanks to both Chairs for their leadership. I would also like to express my thanks to all partners and members of Women's Platform, whose commitment is what drives us and whose advice is invaluable in making sure our work is meaningful. I look forward to continuing development and innovation through a new strategic framework in 2025, which will focus on accessibility and inclusion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonna Monaghan'.

Jonna Monaghan, Director

OUR WORK

CEDAW

During the year, Women’s Platform led advocacy for implementation of CEDAW provisions and recommendations in policy making in Northern Ireland, which were positively highlighted in the Ending Violence for Women and Girls strategy launched in September 2024. Women’s Platform also further developed its role as lead support for the women’s sector on international standards, ensuring shared consultation responses and engagement build on human rights standards. This role has enabled Women’s Platform to establish close collaboration with organisations across the sector, and specifically with the Women’s Policy Group as the strategic collective platform for the sector.

Capacity building remains a key role for Women’s Platform, and throughout the year consisted of both training on international human rights standards, and a series of webinars sharing international good practice and perspectives. Both programmes were well received, and participants have noted that the capacity building programme builds their confidence to engage with concepts of human rights, as well as decision making.

Both advocacy and capacity building activities have contributed to preparations for CEDAW reporting, which due to delays at the UN did not take place in 2024 and may be postponed until 2026. Work to date has focused on gathering data and evidence, and identifying key priorities, and will be expanded to direct consultation with women’s organisations and groups in 2025. Women’s Platform is also leading engagement with sister organisations in England, Scotland and Wales to explore and agree a relevant four nations mechanism.

During the year, Women’s Platform also completed Northern Ireland civil society reporting to the baseline assessment of the UK under the Istanbul Convention on tackling violence against women and girls. This process involved a visit of Council of Europe experts in January 2024, and contributed to developing working relationships with the Council of Europe, including strengthening understanding of the context of devolution among Council of Europe experts on violence against women and girls.



International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

- First agreed Convention adopted in 1966
- Focus on core human rights
 - Right to personal integrity
 - Equality before the law
 - Gender equality and minority rights
- Individual and political rights at centre
 - Right to vote
 - Freedom of expression, assembly and association

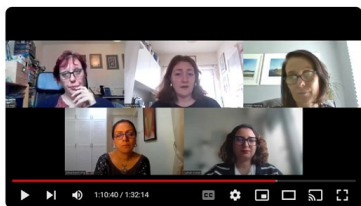
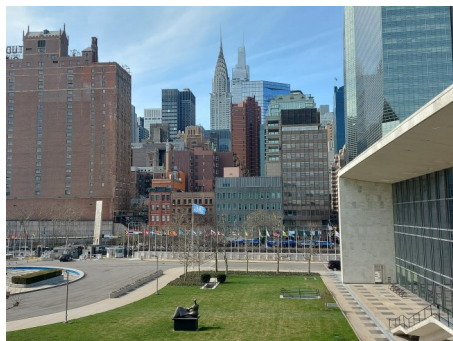


WOMEN'S PLATFORM

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Commission on the Status of Women

CSW68 in March 2024 focused on poverty and social protection, . Women’s Platform supported a small delegation at CSW68, to maximise opportunities to gather evidence, learning and good , and build relationships with international networks. Learning from the delegation was collated in a report shared with the sector as well as key decision makers, and highlights the value of direct engagement with organisations and in particular governments and international agencies, as well as the vital role of shared priorities and solidarity. Women’s Platform also provided daily updates to members, and engaged with both the UK and Irish governments. .



A side event was organised in collaboration with NI Women’s Budget Group and Women’s Support Network on gender budgeting, involving learning from Malaysia, where civil society has been able to support the government to introduce gender budgeting. This side event also shared learning from the UK Women’s Budget Group, and

contributed to developing collaboration on gender budgeting beyond Northern Ireland. A CSW68 follow up event was also organised in May, which highlighted the value of relationships built, including with the Scottish Women’s Convention. Both events received very positive feedback as an information and encouraging environment, and work is ongoing to develop further opportunities to share learning internationally.

Evaluation of CSW68 participation has identified in person participation at CSW as a priority for the future, and has underlined the need to enable larger delegations. The challenges of this in the current financial situation have been acknowledged, and there has been a focus over the year to identify ways to secure participation, through a range of funding mechanisms. In addition, Women’s Platform has contributed to international preparation for CSW69, which will mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action.





Left—right: Reception hosted by UK Deputy Ambassador to the UN James Kariuki, with Charles Ramsden of UK Government Equality Hub; official CSW68 side event; Meeting with Deputy Ambassador Keith McBean and Caoimhe Landy at the Irish Mission to the UN

European collaboration and advocacy

European Women's Lobby

The European Women's Lobby is the umbrella network for women's networks in Europe. Women's Platform acts as the Northern Ireland coordination to the Lobby, and continued to act as a support to England as the current UK Board member, to ensure a smooth transition in the rotation and support relationship building. Women's Platform also continued to engage with the European Women's Lobby through events and information sharing, and represented the UK on the sexual and reproductive health and rights taskforce. Women's Platform also led engagement with the European Women's Lobby to explore how the UK can effectively contribute to the network in a post Brexit arrangement, which identified a shared interest in building resources and strengthening peer to peer engagement and learning. This process also identified a potential role for the UK as an independent voice, particularly in relation to evaluating EU policy and practice.

UK Joint Committee on Women

Women's Platform is a core member of the UK Joint Committee on Women (UKJCW), which acts as the coordination of the UK membership of the European Women's Lobby. A need to review and development of this mechanism was identified in 2022-23, and Women's Platform led engagement with sister organisations to explore priorities and ways of working. A process for review was agreed in summer 2024, and the role of Women's Platform in East-West collaboration as well as five nations working was acknowledged as a key support for future development. The process has contributed to building and strengthening relationships, and has confirmed a renewed interest in four nations collaboration at both domestic and international level.

Women, Peace and Security

Women's Spaces

Women's Spaces is a Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership funded by the Irish Government, and is designed to build the capacity of women in Northern Ireland to engage with peacebuilding. Women's Platform is the lead partner in the Women's Spaces consortium, which includes Women's Resource and Development Agency, Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network and Women's Support Network.

Two part time Project Coordinators, based in WRDA and NIRWN, lead operational delivery, supported by the consortium as a strategic partnership.



Photos © Women's Spaces project



Women's Spaces engaged over 200 women through a series of online and in person events, including the Where are the Women programme, which was developed as part of Women's Spaces and has been shown to provide an accessible and positive introduction to issues of women's rights, human rights and peacebuilding. In total 10 Where are the Women?

programmes were delivered in Year 2, exceeding targets agreed with the funder.

External evaluation and feedback from participants also highlighted interest in engaging with policy making, and an event in June 2024 in collaboration with Northern Ireland Assembly Connect offered over 40 women an opportunity to engage with decision makers. In August, 50 women took part in an event organised in with Belfast City Council, highlighting ways to engage in local level decision making. Women's Spaces coordinators also connected women to capacity building and learning opportunities organised by others, including women's sector organisations.

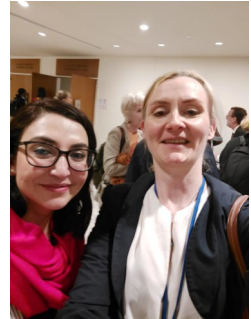
Year 2 also focused on a toolkit, which will set out clear mechanisms for how women and girls can effectively engage in peacebuilding at different levels. Content and the toolkit framework were put in place in Year 2, with a draft resource to be tested with participants before roll out in 2025.

The consortium approach has created significant learning, and strengthened close partnership working. External evaluation has also highlighted these developments as vital for success, and connecting women to the wider women's sector. A key aim in Year 3 is a long term plan, as the evaluation demonstrates that there is further demand beyond the initial three year project.

NI Assembly All Party Group on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security

Women's Platform provides the secretariat for the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group (APG) on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security. The APG remained active throughout the year, and focused in particular on violence against women and girls, while introducing a growing focus on international solidarity. Sinéad McLaughlin MLA was re-elected as Chair and Emma Sheerin re-elected as vice chair, with Cara Hunter MLA also re-elected as secretary and Diane Forsythe MLA re-elected as treasurer.

As part of its focus on building international solidarity, the APG heard from the former ambassador of Afghanistan to the US on the situation of women in Afghanistan, which led to engagement with both the UK and Irish governments seeking a focus on upholding international human rights. The APG also wrote to both governments on a number of occasions expressing concern about the situation in Gaza, and urging both governments to act to uphold international law, protect civilians and ensure humanitarian aid access to Gaza. This role will be developed further in 2024-25, and will also include a focus on support for women arriving in Northern Ireland, including from conflict areas.



Ms Adela Raz, former Afghan ambassador to the US at CSW68

The APG also continued to explore engagement with Councils and NISRA. This work has focused on creating connections for women's organisations to engage directly, and is contributing to highlighting the need for a gender lens in decision making and in particular data collection. Meetings with NISRA and Belfast City Council took place during the year as part of this work.

Advocating for women, peace and security

Women's Platform participates in GAPS, the UK civil society network on women, peace and security, and has strengthened collaboration with a focus on connecting learning from Northern Ireland to learning from other regions. Women's Platform contributed to the 2023 shadow report on the UK National Action Plan, and supported and endorsed development of a First 100 days document for the new Labour government in July 2024. Women's Platform also engaged with the Northern Ireland Office to advocate for implementation of domestic commitments in the UK National Action Plan for women, peace and security 2023-27, which for the first time includes reference to Northern Ireland and domestic implementation of UNSCR 1325. Focus in engagement with the UK government has been on highlighting the specific considerations in Northern Ireland, and in particular on the need to engage with the women's sector.

LOCAL ALLIANCE BUILDING



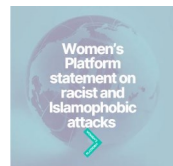
Women’s Platform remains an active member of the Women’s Policy Group and is working closely with the Women’s Sector Lobbyist in advocacy for gender equality and inclusive decision making. The collaboration has identified clear and distinct roles for both partners, and has also contributed to strengthening capacity on international human rights within the sector,

as identified in informal feedback from organisations participating in Women’s Policy Group. In addition, there was a strong focus on policy submissions to both the Northern Ireland Assembly and UK government, including several submissions to consultations on the Departmental budgets for 2024-26, and covering issues from the Good Jobs consultation and draft Programme for Government to the Assembly Inquiries into gaps in equality law and relationship and sexuality education. Women’s Platform also participated in an advisory group for a Women’s Assembly to be organised in February 2025, and organised events as part of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Festival.

Women’s Platform is also an active member of NI Women’s Budget group and participates in Reclaim the Agenda. Strong local networks are crucial for Women’s Platform to effectively develop its role in amplifying the voices of women and girls in Northern Ireland internationally, and Women’s Platform will focus on further developing its role as a support for the sector in engaging with international networks and using international human rights mechanisms in organisations’ own work and advocacy.

Strengthened focus on communications

Women’s Platform is delighted to have the support of The Dormant Accounts Fund NI to develop communications capacity and widen access to information and learning on international human rights for members and stakeholders. During the year, there was a focus on strengthening communications, and Women’s Platform introduced an Instagram account, which has grown significantly in a short time and is enabling engagement with new audiences and stakeholders. Social media presence was overall strengthened during the year, while the fortnightly newsletter continued to be well received, with members noting that information shared is useful and enables a new perspective on issues in Northern Ireland. Communications will remain a priority in 2025, and there will be a focus on increasing access to good practice from international networks and organisations.



OUR PEOPLE

Committee

Position	Name
Chair	Emma Osborne (from August 2024)
Chair (until Aug 2024)	Louise Coyle
Treasurer	Jeanette Thornton
Secretary	Anne McVicker
EWL member	Karen Devlin
Member	Alexandra Brennan
Member	Naomi English
Member	Aislinn Fanning
Member	Siobhán Harding
Member	Alexa Moore
Member	Maxine Murphy-Higgins
Member	Beverly Simpson

Staff

Director	Jonna Monaghan
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Charity Commission registration

Women's Platform was successfully registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in April 2022. The first annual report will be submitted to the Charity Commission for 2023-24, and ensures a strong basis for development of the organisation. Women's Platform would like to confirm that the organisation has taken consideration of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, when setting organisational plans and monitoring delivery.

ACCOUNTS

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year to 31-Mar-24 TOTAL	Year to 31-Mar-23 TOTAL
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and Legacies:					
Charitable Activities: 3					
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust		-	51,667	51,667	53,761
DFA Reconciliation Fund		-	82,583	82,583	80,960
Dormant Accounts NI		-	18,832	18,832	9,416
Engender 1/4 of UK EWL Membership		-	-	-	660
General		8,945	-	8,945	438
Interest		233	-	233	195
Total Income		9,178	153,082	162,260	145,430
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	6	3,793	127,247	131,040	120,588
Total Expenditure:		3,793	127,247	131,040	120,588
Net income/(expenditure)		5,385	25,835	31,220	24,843
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		5,385	25,835	31,220	24,843
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	11	10,537	36,541	47,077	22,234
Total funds carried forward	11	15,922	62,376	78,297	47,077

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on page 22 to 27 form an integral part of these accounts

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	-	-
Cash at bank		78,537	55,317
		<u>78,537</u>	<u>55,317</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(240)	(8,240)
Net Current Assets		<u>78,297</u>	<u>47,077</u>
Net assets		<u>78,297</u>	<u>47,077</u>
Funds			
Restricted		62,376	36,541
Unrestricted		15,922	10,537
TOTAL FUNDS	11	<u>78,297</u>	<u>47,077</u>

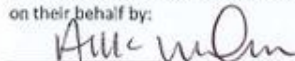
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board directors on 23/10/24 and were signed on their behalf by:



Anne McVicker
Company Secretary

The notes on page 22 to 27 form an integral part of these accounts



Women's Platform Ltd

6 Mount Charles

Belfast BT7 1NZ

info@womensplatform.org

www.womensplatform.org

**A charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.
Registration no. NIC108453**

A company limited by guarantee NI041273

**An organisation in special consultative status with the Economic and
Social Council of the United Nations**

Women's Platform Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108453

Annual return

Company registered number: NI041273
Charity Registered number: NIC108453

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Tony Clarke
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

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Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers	1
Annual Report of the Trustees	2-17
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Statement of Financial Activities	20
Balance Sheet	21
Notes to the Financial Statements	22-28

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The company was incorporated on 03 August 2001 and registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19 April 2022.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI041273

Registered Charity number

NIC108453

Registered office

6 Mount Charles
Belfast
BT7 1NZ

CHAIRPERSON

Louise Coyle

DIRECTORS

Louise Coyle	Chair
Emma Osborne	Vice Chair
Anne McVicker	Company Secretary
Jeanette Thornton	Treasurer
Karen Devlin	European Women's Lobby representative
Alexandra Brennan	Member
Naomi English	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Aislinn Fanning	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Siobhán Harding	Member
Alexa Moore	Member
Maxine Murphy-Higgins	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Beverly Simpson	Member (elected 18 October 2023)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Tony Clarke

53 Andersontown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

Women's Platform Limited

HMRC charitable status number NI01117

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NI108453

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

Women's Platform is a membership organisation working to promote the implementation of international human rights standards in Northern Ireland, and in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in line with commitments the UK has made to international human rights treaties. Established in 1988 as the Northern Ireland link to the European Women's Lobby, Women's Platform also represents women and girls in Northern Ireland at the European and international level, including at the UN. Women's Platform is in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, which enables the organisation to engage in UN human rights processes and coordinate a Northern Ireland civil society response to these processes.

The work of Women's Platform locally focuses on building the capacity of members and the wider women's sector to utilise international human rights standards and mechanisms for women's rights in their own practice and work to promote gender equality in Northern Ireland. Women's Platform also shares evidence and good practice from international networks locally, and works with members to amplify the voice of women and girls in Northern Ireland internationally. In addition, Women's Platform contributes evidence to consultation processes and engages with policy and decision makers to highlight human rights commitments and evidence of good practice on realising gender equality. This includes work on the women, peace and security agenda in alignment with the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Women's Platform exists to advance the equality and human rights and equality of women and girls in Northern Ireland, through a number of mechanisms including education of the public, promotion of human rights and public support for human rights, commenting on proposed legislation and policy, international advocacy, promoting domestic enforcement of human rights and research into human rights issues. Women's Platform also exists to promote equality, diversity and community development through means including providing a forum for women's organisations, providing strategic and operational support to women's organisations, development and delivery of action plans concerned with improving the lives of women in Northern Ireland and influencing policy and practice in the fields of gender equality, diversity and community development.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Key activities of the Organisation

The following were the key activities of the organisation in 2023-24:

CEDAW

The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a central international human rights treaty, which the UK ratified in 1986. Women's Platform coordinates the civil society response to CEDAW in Northern Ireland, through preparing shadow reports in collaboration with members and partners, and promoting and monitoring implementation of the Committee's recommendations to the UK. In 2023-24, Women's Platform contributed an evidence submission to a follow up process on the Inquiry into abortion legislation in Northern Ireland under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, on invitation by the CEDAW Committee as one of the original instigators of the Inquiry. Women's Platform also focused on developing capacity building materials on CEDAW and highlighting the role of Northern Ireland institutions and public bodies in implementing recommendations by the CEDAW Committee, through ongoing engagement and contributions to policy making processes focused on international human rights provisions. Work on the next reporting cycle was initiated, in preparation for the reporting process originally expected in 2023-24, but delayed by the UN to 2025-26 due to UN level backlogs; this included exploring collaboration at four nations level and identifying evidence gathering mechanisms.

Women's Platform also coordinated the Northern Ireland civil society response to the Council of Europe baseline assessment of the UK under the Istanbul Convention against violence against women and girls. This involved evidence gathering in collaboration with members and stakeholders, collating an extensive evidence submission, and coordinating a roundtable meeting with the GREVIO team of experts undertaking the assessment in January 2024. In addition, Women's Platform contributed an evidence submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, who undertook a country visit to the UK in February 2024.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the UN intergovernmental body responsible for promoting the empowerment of women. Operating through annual conferences, its key role is to assist the United Nations and member states in setting policy direction on gender equality; CSW also plays a key role in monitoring progress on the implementation of gender equality through the global Sustainable Development Goals and integration of gender throughout the Goals. Women's Platform, as an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, is eligible to participate in CSW and submit evidence.

CSW68 took place 11-22 March 2024 as a primarily in person conference, on the themes of women's poverty and social protection. The conference is increasingly returning to in person delivery, and a significant focus during the year was securing funding for a delegation to participate in CSW68, with a number of business cases made and extensive engagement undertaken with a range of Northern Ireland institutions and organisations with a view to securing funding. While this proved difficult in light of the very tight Northern Ireland budget 2023-24, engagement built understanding of CSW and its relevance to Northern Ireland, and contributed to strengthened interest and capacity at policy and decision maker level, enabling strengthened advocacy of inclusion of international models of good practice and international human rights standards in decision making. A small delegation was ultimately supported through using Women's Platform reserves, as the trustees deemed attendance in person in New York for meeting organisational aims and strengthening the organisation's international profile. Securing and organising the delegation, including capacity building and engagement with the sector through meetings and a webinar organised on International Women's Day, was a core part of work in the last quarter of 2023-24. A report will be prepared to support efforts to secure external resourcing for participation in CSW in 2025.

The delegation took part in CSW68 during the first week of the conference, and focused on gathering evidence, examples of good practice and learning from governments, international networks and global civil society, in line with needs and priorities identified in collaboration with members and stakeholders in the women's sector in Northern Ireland. Virtual participation of local organisations in CSW68 was supported through sharing updates and information on events and programming live streamed through UN WebTV and online conferencing platforms, and a full report prepared to enable the wider sector to utilise learning. Women's Platform also organised a virtual side event on Feminist economics: A solution to women's poverty, which focused on highlighting research on the impact of the cost of living crisis on women in Northern Ireland and exploring gender budgeting as a systematic tool to address this, with examples of pilots and existing practice from countries including Malaysia, Iceland and the UK shared. This event received positive feedback and identified a number of concrete international learning and collaboration opportunities, which will be developed as core work in 2024-25.

Women's Platform also engaged with both the UK and Irish governments at CSW68 and emphasised gender budgeting as a tool for ending women's poverty, while also advocating for foreign and domestic policy coherence to encourage and enable addressing global inequalities. This process contributed to developing links with policy makers, as a basis for longer term advocacy and engagement.

Women's Platform also made submissions to the UN High Level Political Forum, which monitors progress on delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the UN Summit for the Future, which seeks to develop a new commitment to multilateral action on key global priorities. The SDGs and building international networks are increasingly a priority of Women's Platform work, and further development of this area of work will be a priority in 2024-25.

At the UK level, Women's Platform participated in the UK NGO CSW Alliance, a coalition of women's organisations engaged with CSW. The role of Women's Platform is to ensure a strong voice for women and girls in Northern Ireland, and the focus of collaboration in 2023-24 was on advocating for a clear voice for devolved administrations and a strengthened understanding of devolution and its implications at the UK level. Similar collaboration with the European Women's Lobby is developing, with a view to ensuring that EU level organisations and actors have an understanding of events and priorities in the UK.

European Women's Lobby

The European Women's Lobby is the umbrella network for women's networks in Europe. Women's Platform is a core member of the UK Joint Committee on Women, which acts as the coordination of the UK membership of the European Women's Lobby, across the devolved administrations. Women's Platform also participates in the European Women's Lobby, including relevant sub networks, and acted as the UK Board member until June 2023, when Board membership passed on in accordance with an agreed four nations rotation. Support to the new Board member and alternate was provided and Women's Platform continued to engage with the Lobby to ensure a clear transition and continued engagement of the UK with the Lobby, which in January 2024 approved new statutes confirming the UK as a key member of the network, in post Brexit arrangements. with a mandate 2021-23, and a focus on ensuring effective information sharing between women's networks in Europe and the UK. Women's Platform participated in the steering group for a research project studying the impact of Brexit on women in Northern Ireland, and contributed to developing links between stakeholders in Northern Ireland and the Lobby, as well as the UK Mission to the EU.

Women's Platform also led work to explore a renewal of the UK Joint Committee on Women, following a period of significant change in constituent organisations. This included exploring perspectives and priorities across the four partner organisations in relation to four nations and European level collaboration, and identified core elements for a review to be undertaken in early 2024-25.

Women, Peace and Security

Women's Platform provides the secretariat for the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group (APG) on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security. During the year, the APG continued its active role in dialogue on gender equality in Northern Ireland and acted as a link between decision making structures and the sector, despite the lack of functioning institutions for most of 2023-24. A cross party leadership team was elected at the AGM in June 2023, confirming a broad base of support for the APG.

The cost of living crisis and violence against women and girls were core priorities for the APG, which engaged with the Northern Ireland Civil Service to highlight these issues as priorities for decision making. The APG also initiated arrangements and hosted an event marking the Good Friday Agreement from a women's perspective in June 2023, which attracted almost 100 women and identified a strong need for further opportunities for engagement between grassroots women and decision makers. The APG initiated engagement between the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and the sector, and championed engagement with local government as an important driver of action relevant to gender equality and meeting women's needs at local level.

Women's Platform built further links with GAPS, the UK network on women, peace and security, and through this contributed to development of action under the UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2023-27. This action plan for the first time includes Northern Ireland, following strong advocacy at the policy development stage, and this identified new opportunities for engagement with the Northern Ireland Office as a key link between the UK government and devolved institutions. In addition, Women's Platform contributed to the GAPS annual shadow report on the UK National Action Plan on women, peace and security.

Following long term work to develop relationships with the Irish Government, which includes Northern Ireland in its National Action Plan on women, peace and security, Women's Platform in collaboration with Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA), Women's Support Network (WSN) and Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN) successfully secured a three year Strategic Partnership project within the Reconciliation Fund in 2022-23, which was developed further in 2023-24. The project is a three year capacity building and advocacy programme, which during the year focused on capacity building, developing links with grassroots women and initiating a toolkit, which will be the key deliverable from the project. Women's Platform takes a project coordination and financial management role within the project, which is delivered by two part time project coordinators employed through project partners WRDA and NIRWN. During the year, Women's Platform led strategic development and monitoring of the project, and also contributed concrete operational support to project coordinators, in particular in relation to managing budgets and timelines.

During the year, there was an emphasis on developing clear needs and priorities to set a framework for the toolkit, along with outreach to new grassroots groups and enabling women new to the issues to build confidence in sharing their views, voices and stories. Women's Platform coordinated strategic and operational planning, and assisted project coordinators in developing operational action plans. The organisation also took lead in engaging with an longitudinal evaluator and implementing action to address recommendations from the first interim report, as well as engaging with the funder and reporting on progress. The project enabled development of further strong links with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, and has identified a significant demand for skill building on women, peace and security in Northern Ireland. Plans for Year 3 were developed on the basis of an interim in year evaluation and focus on delivering a toolkit, including securing resources for a digital version of the toolkit, identified as a core need by project participants.

Local alliance building and advocacy

Women's Platform remains an active member of the NI Women's Policy Group and worked closely with the Women's Sector Lobbyist to develop advocacy for gender equality in policy and decision making, including development of the APG on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security. In 2023-24, this focused on strengthening the international human rights element in sectoral policy submissions, and Women's Platform became established as the go-to organisation on international human rights standards, as well as the key source of information and expertise on good practice from international networks, with the fortnightly newsletter playing a key role in building sector capacity on key international issues and events relevant to gender equality, as well as good practice. This contributed to stronger, more effective and streamlined policy submissions, which focused on the impact of budget cuts on women, violence against women and girls, as well as submissions to the UK House of Commons and House of Lords on consultations primarily exploring post Brexit arrangements. This also included representing a gender equality perspective in direct engagement with political decision makers, including the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland as well as the five main parties in Northern Ireland. Evidence shared by Women's Platform was highlighted within the draft Ending Violence against Women and Girls strategy that was published for consultation in July 2023, which also incorporated international human rights standards within its core framework.

Women's Platform is also an active member of NI Women's Budget group and participates in Reclaim the Agenda. Through securing funding for strengthening communications with members and partners, Women's Platform is currently focusing on strengthening information sharing and capacity building to the wider sector in Northern Ireland. In 2023-24, there was a focus on strengthening the organisation's social media presence, which positively contributed to visibility and engagement with new stakeholders.

Communications

Through a grant from Dormant Accounts Fund NI, Women's Platform secured resourcing in 2022 to invest in developing communications of the organisation, which has been identified as a priority to strengthen engagement with and support to members and partners, and also support recruitment of members. This work in 2023-24 focused on exploring core priorities, including identifying key audiences, key messages and clarifying communications needs. It also identified a need to strengthen social media presence as a mechanism for increasing membership, and this was a focus particular in quarter 3. Intensified and refined social media presence, including a new Instagram account, contributed to increasing recognition of the organisation and identified key areas of development needed to engage new members and stakeholders, in particular young women as an underrepresented group in the organisation's activities.

Extraordinary activity: Action and adaptation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Working practices in 2023-24 were increasingly in line with pre pandemic practice, with in person meetings the norm in particular for engagement with grassroots women. However, Women's Platform has embedded a culture of hybrid working, with a view to maximising efficiency and capacity of the organisation. It is anticipated that hybrid working is retained as the normalised practice, with remote working the norm during quieter periods, but in person delivery and engagement prioritised within projects.

Women's Platform moved to remote working in March 2020 and was able to continue delivery of the strategic and operational plan with relatively limited restrictions. Arrangements were put in place to meet organisational policies and procedures, in particular regarding information and data security. Learning from this process highlighted the value of flexible working and the increased access to international networks through online platforms, and this has fundamentally shaped the organisation's work for the long term. As the core link between the sector in Northern Ireland and the international level, Women's Platform values the flexibility and accessibility provided by virtual platforms, with the majority of events retained online to secure access for the widest number of people, and enable engagement with experts and stakeholders internationally as well as locally. This received positive feedback in particular from rural stakeholders, for whom access remained difficult in particular due to the cost of living crisis, which increased travel and transport costs significantly. International networking has now been embedded in organisational practice, and is strengthening the organisation's capacity to support the sector significantly.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to guidance produced by the Charity Commission regarding Public Benefit.

Directors

The following constituted the directors of Women's Platform as of 31 March 2024:

Louise Coyle	Chair
Emma Osborne	Vice Chair
Anne McVicker	Company Secretary
Jeanette Thornton	Treasurer
Karen Devlin	European Women's Lobby representative
Alexandra Brennan	Member
Naomi English	Member (elected 18 October 2023)

Aislinn Fanning	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Siobhán Harding	Member
Alexa Moore	Member
Maxine Murphy-Higgins	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Beverly Simpson	Member (elected 18 October 2023)

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Position

The detailed financial results for the year ended 31 March 2024 are shown on the financial statements, which accompany this report. During the year, Women's Platform successfully delivered on all of its three existing grants, including the core grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, which secured the organisation for 2022-25. In March 2024, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust also confirmed a cost of living increase in light of increased costs in 2024, which contributes to securing the organisation throughout the core grant period. Work was initiated on a new core grant to ensure organisational sustainability.

Women's Platform also secured a second installment of a three year grant from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, as one of the Strategic Partnerships under its Reconciliation Fund. This project is a consortium with Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network, Women's Resource and Development Agency and Women's Support Network, and enables supporting two part time staff embedded within WRDA and NIRWN, with overall project management and financial oversight provided by Women's Platform, subject to minimal core costs for this function, which contribute to securing the organisation and add to overall sustainability of the organisation. The project follows impactful delivery by Women's Platform on initiatives promoting the women, peace and security agenda over the long term, and highlights the value funders place in the organisation as a coordination for cross sectoral action. The project is progressing well and the funder has indicated strong interest in its outcomes, which indicates a positive starting point for the future. In addition, the project is strengthening the organisation's skills and capacity in consortium working, which are likely to be important in future fundraising in light of the tightening financial environment.

In May 2022, Women's Platform secured a two year grant from the Dormant Accounts Fund Northern Ireland to develop communications and enable the organisation to act as an effective support to members and the wider women's sector on international human rights frameworks and international good practice. The grant provides funding for an external communications consultant to lead on communications development, along with funding for communications deliverables. There was an underspend on this project in 2023-24 due to limitations in the capacity of the contractor, which were outside the control of Women's Platform; permission from the funder to reprofile this was sought and granted, with the project extended to June 2025. This delay also enabled more detailed consideration of needs and priorities, and as a result, the reprofiled budget will support a more precise and detailed operational plan, which is focused on meeting specific information needs in the wider sector and thus strengthen the organisation's role within the sector. This, in turn, will allow for more effective outreach to existing and potential members and will, in extension, strengthen the organisation's capacity to sustain and strengthen operations beyond 2025.

Reserves Policy

Women's Platform maintains a prudent level of reserves to enable the organisation to deliver the strategic plan. The objective is that the organisation would be able to carry on its work, even if faced with a combination of difficult circumstances, and have the time to adjust its strategy to

meet these changing circumstances. The Committee will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on an annual basis and is actively working to identify funding opportunities that will secure a level of reserves identified as appropriate, while strengthening the organisation's financial resilience as well as its ability to capitalise on opportunities that may arise beyond the core strategic plan.

In 2023-24, a decision was made to utilise a proportion of available reserves to support a delegation of two representatives to the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference in New York. The trustees undertook a feasibility assessment against a detailed business case setting out a strictly managed budget for this, and determined that authorising this expenditure was prudent and relevant in relation to delivering the strategic plan, specifically in relation to strengthening the organisation's international profile and its capacity to act as a platform for women in Northern Ireland at the international level. A fundraising strategy will be developed in 2024-25 with a focus on increasing unrestricted income and enable conservative development of reserves to account for this investment. The trustees in their risk assessment ensured that reserves remain at an acceptable level to meet any unexpected circumstances.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal Risks & Uncertainties

Risk Policy and Internal Control Framework

Women's Platform has put in place a risk management process, which seeks to ensure that the organisation is able to operate effectively in all circumstances. The Committee has primary responsibility for risk management and is undertaking annual risk review with a view to strengthening organisational resilience and ability to effectively monitor, prepare for and react to the main strategic, business and operational risks facing the organisation.

Women's Platform has reviewed and updated a risk review, informed by learning from the Covid-19 crisis, and put in place measures to safeguard the organisation. With a core grant in place for 2022-25 and sustained core project funding in place through the Reconciliation Fund grant, the organisation is financially stable and focusing on revenue funding in line with the strategic plan.

Financial Stability

The Trustees deem the organisation to be financially stable and a going concern in the current circumstance, with the three year core cost grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust in place until 2022-25 and sustainable funding for core projects in place until June 2025. The additional Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership grant, while shared with consortium members who will carry out the majority of concrete work, confirms the role of the organisation within the women's sector and wider civil society in Northern Ireland, and provides a good basis for further developing relationships with the Irish government as a major current funder of activities relevant to the women's sector, as well as identifying additional revenue funding opportunities.

The Committee has for several years involved a finance sub group to oversee long term financial planning, scrutinise financial management of the organisation and review budgets on an ongoing basis, which also scrutinises governance arrangements and legal compliance. The finance and governance sub group meets at least quarterly, running in tandem with Committee meetings to scrutinise finances and governance issues and provide recommendations regarding financial planning and governance to the Committee. A strategy for ongoing monitoring of funding opportunities is in place, monitored by both the sub group and the Committee at each meeting, and a fundraising strategy will be developed in early 2024-25 to further strengthen organisational resilience and stability.

Governance and Management

Women's Platform has governance structures and procedures in place to ensure appropriate decision making and implementation. The Committee is the governing body of the organisation and develops strategic plans on a three yearly basis, with annual review alongside ongoing monitoring of operational plans. The focus of review is to ensure the organisation is able to operate effectively in all circumstances, identify challenges at an early stage and develop a proactive as well as responsive approach to governance. Governance systems and procedures are reviewed on annual basis to ensure effective scrutiny as well as management of the organisation and compliance with legislation and regulations.

In 2023-24, organisational policies were reviewed to ensure compliance with current legislation and good practice, and a number of policies were modernised, including financial procedures and the subsistence policy.

Operational and staff policies

The personal security of staff and volunteers, as well as the safety of beneficiaries is of the highest priority for Women's Platform. The organisation has comprehensive policies on areas including Data Protection, Privacy and Health and Safety to ensure that this risk is appropriately managed and procedures are in place to monitor and ensure compliance. Clear line management arrangements and robust HR policies are also in place to safeguard staff and volunteers, as well as the organisation as a whole.

A staff handbook, which complements contractual obligations for staff and also covers key policies guiding volunteer conduct within the organisation, is in place and reviewed for compliance with legislation and relevance to good practice on an annual basis. Trustees have lead responsibility for monitoring operational delivery and reports on progress, as well as governance issues, are provided at each meeting.

Information Security and Continuity

Women's Platform takes data protection, privacy and data security seriously and has put in place policies and procedures designed to ensure a secure environment in relation to data collation, processing and storage. It is dependent on IT and communication systems for processing and storing data in order to operate effectively. To prevent disruption to operations due to damage to systems or unauthorised access to data Women's Platform has developed robust information and data security measures, which have been reviewed within the financial year in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Data security and effective data management was reviewed in 2023-24 and capacity building on privacy and security measures accessed to build organisational skills in this area. Women's Platform has also reviewed measures in place for remote working and is satisfied that arrangements are of a sufficient standard and information is secure for permanent flexible and hybrid working.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Compliance and Regulation

Women's Platform takes compliance with legislation and regulation very seriously and appreciates the significant damage to the organisation's reputation that could be caused due to non-compliance with legislation, regulations or codes of best practice. Women's Platform implements well-established policies and procedures and adheres to the sector's recommended

codes of practice (such as Statement of Recommended Practice - SORP) to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory and legal standards.

Environmental and External Risks

Women's Platform monitors the external environment on an ongoing basis in order to anticipate political, social or economic risks, and undertakes regular review of plans in light of the changing context to ensure that plans can take account of the external environment in a way that minimises any negative impact on organisational activities or the reputation of the Organisation. Strategic review was undertaken during the year in light of the cost of living crisis and tightening financial environment as well as the changing political context, including political uncertainty and ongoing development of post Brexit arrangements; focus throughout the year was on adapting the operational plan to meet needs identified in order to ensure the relevance of the organisation within the women's sector, among members, and as a stakeholder in policy and decision making processes. This contributed to positioning the organisation within the sector, and also enabled development of new working relationships with local stakeholders as well as officials in the UK and Irish governments.

Engagement with members and partners has underlined that Women's Platform and its expertise, international experience and services are required over the longer term, and core activities during the year have demonstrated increased demand for services, underlining the relevance of the organisation in the current environment. The vital role of the organisation in sharing international level evidence and information with the wider women's sector has continued to be highlighted, in particular through a developing role for the organisation as a conduit for the women's sector to strengthen advocacy on human rights, access international good practice and engage with UK, Ireland and EU level policy and decision makers. Financial and strategic planning will remain focused on ensuring the long term sustainability of the organisation and will involve active identification of ways to ensure sustainability in a changing environment. The consortium approach to the Reconciliation Fund grant is an example of this, and will assist the organisation in positioning itself appropriately for the future and a likely tightening funding environment.

FUTURE PLANS

Planning for 2024-25 formed a key activity in late 2023-24 and plans include the following:

CEDAW

- Update marketing of training portfolio on CEDAW
- Build capacity on CEDAW and reporting process among members and stakeholders as part of outreach designed to build membership
- Undertake evidence gathering for CEDAW shadow reporting
- Prepare initial CEDAW shadow report
- Develop four nations report with UK sister organisations
- Continue strengthening relationships with policy and decision makers and understanding of international obligations within CEDAW
- Engage with policy and decision makers to strengthen inclusion and implementation of CEDAW and wider international human rights standards as core principles of decision making

- Coordinate women's civil society response to other international human rights processes relevant to human rights, eg. through organising event/s to publicise findings of GREVIO assessment of the UK under the Istanbul Convention

CSW

- Secure resources for women's sector delegation to attend CSW69 in person
- Deliver CSW training programme to strengthen capacity on CSW in the sector
- Support women's sector participation in CSW69
- Submit a statement to CSW69
- Identify opportunities for strengthened engagement with CSW by both civil society and officials in Northern Ireland
- Engage with policy and decision makers at local and national level to highlight learning from CSW and advocating for use of international evidence and good practice in decision making
- Explore mechanisms to participate in wider UN mechanisms for women's rights
- Participation in CSW69
- Contribution to the UK Women's Civil Society Alliance

Women, Peace and Security

- Continue to act as secretariat to the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security
- Strengthen the All Party Group as a platform for grassroots women to engage with policy and decision making
- Build the role of the APG as a mechanism for bringing women's priorities into policy making debate
- Lead management and coordinate as well as monitor delivery of Women's Spaces project as Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership lead partner
- Develop organisational work and capacity on engaging young women on peacebuilding
- Develop capacity building resources on UNSCR 1325 for members, stakeholders and policy makers
- Explore mechanisms to strengthen international networking on women, peace and security
- Participate in relevant national level networks, including the UK wide Gender Action for Peace and Security network (GAPS)

Local, national and international collaboration

- Continue to strengthen role within Women's Policy Group as lead on international human rights mechanisms
- Prioritise outreach to groups underrepresented in current projects and membership
- Strengthen support to sector through improved communication and information sharing
- Review UKJCW and develop effective four nations collaboration mechanisms
- Engage in UKJCW to ensure effective four nations collaboration
- Contribute to development of shared working across the UK
- Strengthen collaboration at European level with a view to developing new relationships in a post Brexit setting
- Develop project relevant collaboration with women's organisations in Ireland

- Continue participation in local working groups and networks relevant to gender equality and human rights, including NI Women's Budget Group, Reclaim the Agenda and NI Human Rights Consortium
- Strengthen engagement in international networks relevant to gender equality

Communications

- Develop clear communications development plan with Communications contractor
- Develop website as information resource
- Continue delivery of fortnightly newsletter
- Develop information resources on human rights mechanisms and core women's rights mechanisms
- Continue strengthening social media identity and presence

Organisational development

- Prioritise outreach and extensive engagement with members and potential members to increase membership and relevant offer to members
- Strengthen diversity and intersectional practice in organisational structures
- Undertake Committee skills and needs audit
- Undertake member survey to support strategic review and preparation of new core grant application
- Develop initiatives with young women and minoritised women in line with identified needs
- Develop Committee as effective and diverse governing body
- Continuing Trustee development as part of ongoing governance development
- Develop new core grant application and strategic plan for 2025-28
- Monitor and identify additional funding opportunities in line with funding strategy
- Monitor finances and ensure high quality financial management arrangements

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The charity is controlled by Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The Articles of Association were updated in 2021 and are reviewed annually to ensure ongoing relevance and compliance of activities with the Articles.

Governance of the Organisation

The Committee of Women's Platform is the governing body of the organisation and meets bimonthly. It is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. Delivery of the strategic plan and day to day management of operational activities is carried out by the Director, under supervision of and accountable to the Committee. The Director prepares reports in advance of each Committee meeting and performance is managed through bimonthly supervision meetings.

Committee members are appointed according to the specific skills required by the Organisation to fulfil its responsibilities as outlined in its Strategic Plan and are ratified at the AGM. Committee members are nominated by organisations who are full members of Women's Platform and are elected at the Annual General Meeting for a two year period. Office bearers are elected by the Committee from within its number for a two year period, with clear limits to mandates set in the Articles of Association. In addition, the Committee is entitled to co-opt a limited number of Committee members. Four new members from diverse backgrounds were elected in 2023, and will serve over the years 2024 and 2025, while elections for up to 10 additional members will take place as part of the AGM 2024 process. Committee development and training needs are being monitored on an ongoing basis and strategic development sessions are being integrated into the Committee meeting calendar from the beginning of 2024-25. Support needs of Committee members will be reviewed and relevant measures put in place to safeguard and strengthen the effectiveness, integrity and expertise of the Committee.

Full membership of Women's Platform is open to organisations who work primarily or exclusively with women, and full members are entitled to nominate Committee members and vote at Women's Platform general meetings. In addition, Women's Platform offers associate membership to organisations who work with women as one client group, and to any interested woman as an individual member. Associate and individual members are entitled to attend and speak at general meetings but are not entitled to vote.

Membership of Women's Platform is restricted to women aged 16 and over in line with the objects of Women's Platform, which are focused on advancing equality and human rights for women and girls, and promoting equality, diversity and community development.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
NI041273 (Northern Ireland)

Registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
NIC108453

Recognised by HMRC as a charity for tax purposes
NI01117

Registered Office

6 Mount Charles
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT7 1NZ

Trustees as at 31 March 2024

Louise Coyle	Chair
Emma Osborne	Vice Chair
Anne McVicker	Secretary
Jeanette Thornton	Treasurer
Karen Devlin	European Women's Lobby representative
Alexandra Brennan	Member
Naomi English	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Aislinn Fanning	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Siobhán Harding	Member
Alexa Moore	Member
Maxine Murphy-Higgins	Member (elected 18 October 2023)
Beverly Simpson	Member (elected 18 October 2023)

Company Secretary
Anne McVicker

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Women's Platform Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

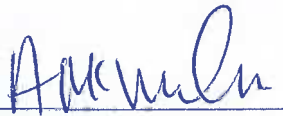
In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the independent examiner undertaking the charitable company's examination is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiner undertaking the charitable company's examination is aware of that information.

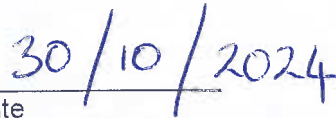
SCRUTINY OF ACCOUNTS

As the organisation's current turnover is under £250,000, current charity legislation allows for independent examination to scrutinise accounts. The decision to undertake independent examination of accounts in 2019-20 was ratified at the AGM 2018 and further confirmed at the AGM 2019.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.



Anne McVicker
Company Secretary



Date

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)
**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

I report on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 20 and 21.

This report is made solely to the company's Trustees, as a body in accordance with section 65(3)(a) of the Charities Act Northern Ireland 2008 and regulations made under section 66 of the Act. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's Trustees as a body, for my work of this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the company's Trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purpose of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the company is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for Independent examination.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It was also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

Independent examiner's statement

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

- 1 That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
- 2 That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
- 3 That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
- 4 That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Tony Clarke
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

Date: 11/12/24

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year to 31-Mar-24 TOTAL	Year to 31-Mar-23 TOTAL
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and Legacies:					
Charitable Activities:					
	3				
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust		-	51,667	51,667	53,761
DFA Reconciliation Fund		-	82,583	82,583	80,960
Dormant Accounts NI		-	18,832	18,832	9,416
Engender 1/4 of UK EWL Membership		-	-	-	660
General		8,945	-	8,945	438
Interest		233	-	233	195
Total Income		9,178	153,082	162,260	145,430
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	5	3,793	127,247	131,040	120,588
Total Expenditure:		3,793	127,247	131,040	120,588
Net income/(expenditure)		5,385	25,835	31,220	24,843
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		5,385	25,835	31,220	24,843
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	11	10,537	36,541	47,077	22,234
Total funds carried forward	11	15,922	62,376	78,297	47,077

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on page 22 to 28 form an integral part of these accounts

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2024

	Note	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	-	-
Cash at bank		<u>78,537</u>	<u>55,317</u>
		78,537	55,317
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(240)</u>	<u>(8,240)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>78,297</u>	<u>47,077</u>
Net assets		<u>78,297</u>	<u>47,077</u>
Funds			
Restricted		62,376	36,541
Unrestricted		15,922	10,537
TOTAL FUNDS	11	<u>78,297</u>	<u>47,077</u>

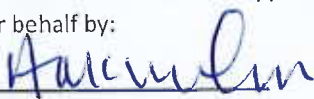
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board directors on and were signed on their behalf by:


Anne McVicker

Company Secretary

The notes on page 22 to 28 form an integral part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Womens Platform Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is: 6 Mount Charles, Belfast, BT71 NZ

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

1.4 Incoming resources (continued)

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts, VAT and other sales related taxes.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measure reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

The charity is below the charity audit threshold and therefore is exempt from reporting expenditure on an activity basis. The charity has opted to report by the nature of expenditure rather than on an activity basis.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and Fittings	15% on cost
Computers	20% on cost

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...**1.9 Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1.10 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.11 Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

2 Income from Donations and Legacies

	2024		2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	-	-
Totals 2024	-	-	-	-
Totals 2023	-	-	-	-

3 Income from Charitable Activities

	2024		2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	51,667	51,667	53,761
DFA Reconciliation Fund	-	82,583	82,583	80,960
Dormant Accounts NI	-	18,832	18,832	9,416
Engender 1/4 of UK EWL Membership	-	-	-	660
General	8,945	-	8,945	438
Interest	233	-	233	195
Totals 2024	9,178	153,082	162,260	145,430
Totals 2023	633	144,797	145,430	145,430

4 Staff Costs and Numbers

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross Wages and Salaries	42,636	41,006
	42,636	41,006

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2023: Nil)

The average monthly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
	1	1

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

5 Expenditure

Charitable Activities			2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	£	£
	£	£	£	£
Salary Costs	-	42,636	42,636	41,006
Staff travel	-	216	216	787
Telecoms	-	1,400	1,400	1,256
Rent	-	3,025	3,025	3,300
Insurance	-	1,041	1,041	981
Bank Fees	-	70	70	61
Accountancy	-	1,333	1,333	1,474
Stationery	-	-	-	120
Hospitality	-	44	44	736
New Identity	-	-	-	1,440
Project Costs	-	792	792	2,772
UNSCR 1325 Project	-	-	-	5,093
Women's Spaces DFA Rec Fund	-	72,658	72,658	60,557
IT & Comms Equipment	-	-	-	234
CSW Expenses	3,793	-	3,793	-
Dormant Accounts NI	-	4,031	4,031	770
Totals 2024	3,793	127,247	131,040	120,588
Totals 2023	-	120,588	120,588	-

6 Related party transactions

There were payments to organisations which two of the Committee members in 2023-24 were related to. Committee members are elected in an individual capacity, but Louise Coyle is related to Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network and Anne McVicker is related to Women's Resource and Development Agency through their paid employment.

The conflict of interest is recorded at the beginning of each Committee meeting, and the relevant Committee members do not participate in strategic, Committee level decision making on the relevant project. Additional scrutiny by the Committee is in place for this.

The payments related to Women's Spaces, a consortium project Women's Platform is leading with NIRWN, WRDA and Women's Support Network as partners. This project is reported on within the Trustee's report, and payments relate to salaries to two part time project staff, one of whom is located within NIRWN and another with WRDA, as well as project running costs to these two project partners; Women's Support Network also receives running costs as a supporting partner. The consortium arrangement has been in place from project inception and application to the Irish government Reconciliation Fund, who funds this project, and full project reporting is available from 2022-23.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

6 Related party transactions continued...

The role of Women's Platform in this project is to act as financial manager, and the project funds are budgeted overarchingly for salaries and project costs, in agreement with the funder. The net benefit to Women's Platform is running costs of £5,000 and a core costs payment of £3,000.

Women's Platform also rents office space from Women's Resource and Development Agency, at a cost of £3,300 per annum. This is regulated through a tenancy agreement.

7 Trustees remuneration & expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2023 - £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2023 - £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2023 - £NIL).

8 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
	-	-

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent Examiner's remuneration amounts to an Independent Examination fee of £240 (2023 - £240)

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals & Deferred Income	-	-
Other Creditors	240	8,240
	240	8,240

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11 Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	8,871	51,667	(50,558)	179	10,160
DFA Reconciliation Fund	(587)	-	-	587	-
DFA Reconciliation	20,403	82,583	(72,658)	-	30,328
Engender 1/4 of UK EWL Membershi	660	-	-	(660)	-
Dormant Accounts NI	8,646	18,832	(4,031)	-	23,447
The National Lottery Fund	(1,393)	-	-	1,393	-
Total restricted funds	36,601	153,082	(127,247)	1,499	63,935
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Unrestricted funds	10,476	9,178	(3,793)	(1,499)	14,362
Total Unrestricted funds	10,476	9,178	(3,793)	(1,499)	14,362
Total of funds - current year	47,077	162,260	(131,040)	-	78,297

12 Statement of fund - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at 31 March 2023
Total unrestricted funds	9,903	633	(60)	-	10,476
Total restricted funds	12,391	144,797	(120,588)	-	36,601
Total of funds - prior year	22,294	145,430	(120,648)	-	47,077