

SHARPEN HER: THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK (SHAWN)

ANNUAL REPORT (2024-25)

The Annual Report for 2024-2025 ended with a call to action to our members:

- *Join us as volunteers*
- *Actively engage and put your skills into practice*
- *Help in improving our social media presence – we are currently on Facebook, LinkedIn. We also have X and Instagram which are not active.*
- *Spread the word in your networks*

Perhaps that could also make for a start for this year's report. Where are we? Where is Sharpen Her today? With a growing membership of 260 plus, there are so many things we can celebrate as we look back at the past 12 months.

We have made quite a number of strides, yes, but we are not going to rest on our laurels. We believe there is still room for growth. Quite a lot has happened, and it has all supported our overarching aim of supporting the integration of African women by building their capacity, confidence, and resilience.

We have seen more engagement, more women stepping up as volunteers.

Women engaging more, and putting their skills to use, sharing skills with others.

Women are spreading the word about our work in different platforms and forums.

We can also celebrate:

Increased partnership working such as:

- Collaborations with educational institutions such as Glasgow Clyde College, Glasgow University, and the University of Strathclyde. We have received student volunteers, some of whom are still volunteering for us to date.
- Employability agencies such as Smart Works and Dress for Success Scotland who provide interview preparation, coaching and provision of interview clothing for women going for interviews and further support after women get the jobs. The two organisations were kind enough to donate items of clothing to our members.
- We brought together several organization for a learning event to share best practice on Working with New Scots. The event was attended by Maryhill Integration Network, Police Scotland, Shelter Scotland, Scottish Refugee Council, Tricky Hat, and Shine Your Light Community. The events received positive feedback, and we hope to hold more of such to share learning.

- We worked with Pilotlight on their Make an Impact project where we were connected to Arup an engineering company where their staff volunteered to support our business operations. They developed a communications strategy for us and beyond that, they donated 3 laptops.
- The Home Office National Community Engagement Team, who have been very instrumental in providing our members with information to aid compliance with immigration rules. At the end of 2024, 4 of our members attended the Team's conference which was a testament to the increase in confidence within our membership, especially those who would not normally engage with such a fearsome organization.
- We held an Antiracism consultation with support from Impact Funders and our members made contributions to the proposed Anti-Racism Observatory in Scotland.
- Our members have become Climate Change Ambassadors under CEMVO () where they are building their understanding and capacity to act on issues of climate change.
- We have developed links with Glasgow Life who granted us £400 to start a walking group. Not only that, one of our members underwent training as a walk leader and will be supported to lead walks to support active life. Women are reporting feeling better mentally due to the walking. Women also took part in cycling lessons delivered by Women on Wheels and that was followed by Cycling UK giving us a grant to purchase 10 bicycles under their Individual Ownership Fund.
- Continued collaboration with Police Scotland with whom we have had several collaborations such as training their sergeants to understand how best to work with New Scots, funding and event at the DWP offices to support African women to get into jobs and finally we had an International Women's Day event at Police Scotland premises.

Our funders have enabled us to carry out a vast majority of activities through the unrestricted and restricted funds received. We have been able to maintain our weekly support group, which has been a lifeline for many of our members. Sharpen Her office is situated within walking distance of one of the asylum hotels in Glasgow. This has meant that many women living in that accommodation have taken to accessing our service, which is a safe space where they can unwind, relax, and make connections with other women. Many women also find that they can access peer support and information as they engage with our Tuesday group. This service has become a backbone of our work, once a woman engages with this group, they are able to learn more about what else is available to them through Sharpen Her. This can be direct support, whether emotional or a support letter for an application, or signposting to relevant agencies.

During the year we have also been able to run a digital inclusion project funded by The Good Things Foundation. Virgin Money kindly offered their staff and premises to volunteer to offer digital support to our women on a fortnightly basis. We have seen women's confidence in using computers increase and they are able to work at their own pace and according to their identified learning needs. We have been able to continue this digital support well after the funding is finished. We hope to continue as the need still exists.

Within the same lines of digital support, the National Databank through Migrant Help facilitated the distribution on 20 mobile phones to some of our asylum-seeking women.

We continue to run a weekly virtual support group where women come together to connect, learn, and interact. This year, this has been enhanced by the involvement of a student volunteer who has tirelessly facilitated structured sessions where more women are engaging and learning a lot.

We have been able to streamline our communications beyond the WhatsApp group. We have a newsletter with which we communicate with our members which has resolved the challenge of information being lost amid the many messages on our Whatsapp group. We have also introduced signed-up membership, which means we are able to identify who our Bonafide members are amongst the 260 we see on the platform.

We have also fostered integration by creating opportunities where women have accessed spaces which they have not been able to before. Women have been to the Tramway Museum, Willow Tea Rooms, Loch Lomond National Park, and the Red Bus Tour which enabled women to explore several places of interest in Glasgow.

In true Sharpen Her fashion, we celebrated our 6th anniversary with more than 90 women and families coming together to mark the day. We invited a woman who has defied the odds to take a high-flying job in the financial sector. Using role models in this way has had an impact on women who may have otherwise lost hope and confidence due to the challenges faced as they navigate the systems on this country.

The journey has not been without its challenges:

- We need staff and volunteers to run the day-to-day operations of the organization
- Our finances though stable have been challenged due to the current funding climate
- We need to build capacity for those carrying out the work, especially in supporting the women.

As we start a new year, we believe that these challenges will be resolved, and we can have more impact on the community.

All in all, 2024-25 was a fruitful year and we are confident that the trajectory will stay on an upward trend.

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For: Chairperson.

SHARPEN HER: THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK (SHAWN)

CHARITY NUMBER: SC050897

Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	04	2024		31	03	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	¹ Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations		4,708			4,708	337
Grants	5,000	24,730			29,730	51,377
					-	
A1 Sub total	5,000	29,438	-	-	34,438	51,714

A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales

Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,000	29,438	-	-	34,438	51,714

A3 Payments

Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	4,073	29,438			33,511	43,093
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts	400				400	300
					-	
A3 Sub total	4,473	29,438	-	-	33,911	43,393

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	¹ Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,473	29,438	-	-	33,911	43,393
Net receipts / (payments)	527	-	-	-	527	8,321
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	527	-	-	-	527	8,321

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	767	5,667			6,434	28
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	527	-			527	8,321
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year (Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	1,294	5,667	-	-	6,961	8,349
B2 Investments	Details						
B3 Other assets	Details						
B4 Liabilities	Details						
	Details						

B5 Contingent Liabilities

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Total

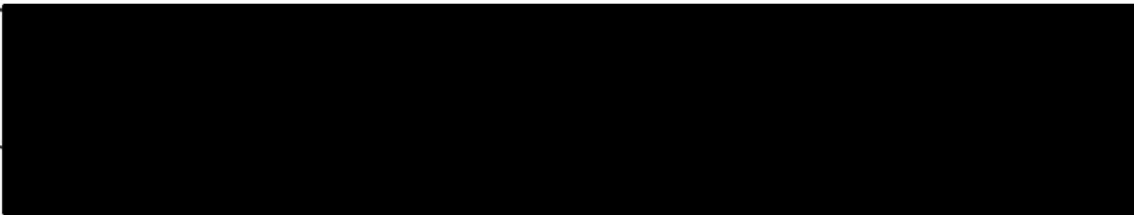
Signed by one or two
trustees on behalf of all the
trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

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11/11/2025

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

Glasgow Council for the Voluntary sector funded the health and wellbeing workshops and activities for the women. Cycling UK funded the 1st batch of bike lessons and giving out of bikes to women and young people within the community. The Impact Funding Partners funded the anti-racism consultation events carried out. Sported Foundation funded the sporting activities for women, families and young people. Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme fund the children and their families summer activities, events and trip to Loch Lomond. Good things foundation funded the media and IT expenses of the organisation. The Hyman Roberston funded the wellbeing workshop organised for the women. The Glasgow Walking Group fund received was for organising daily walk exercise for the women. The Robertson Trust Fund was used to organise workshop, trainings, events, volunteering expenses and pay accountant fee.

C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Health and Wellbeing Activities	Glasgow council for the Voluntary Sector	1	10,500
Bike lesson and handing out of new bikes to women and young people	Cycling UK	1	6,439
Workshops, Events and Training	The Robertson Trust	1	5,000
Anti-racism Consultation	Impact Funding Partners	1	2,496
Sporting Activities	Sported Foundation	1	2,000
Family Activities	Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme	1	1,105
Digital Hub Activation Grant	Good Things Foundation	1	1,000
Women's Health Workshop	The Hyman Robertson Trust	1	650
Women's Walking Group	Glasgow Walking Group	1	400
T-shirt Purchase	Shine Your Light Community	1	140
		Total	29,730

C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	x
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C3b Trustee remuneration - details

Authority under which paid £

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period, then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	x
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C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

Additional analysis (1)

Analysis of receipts and payments

1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Dechomai Ltd					200	-
The Unity Centre		3,500			3,500	-
Various groups and individuals		1,008			1,008	337
Total		4,708			4,708	337

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector		10,500	10,500	-
Cycling UK		6,439	6,439	4,925
The Robertson Trust	5,000		5,000	3,000
Impact Funding Partners		2,496	2,496	4,827
Sported Foundation-Cash 4 Clubs		2,000	2,000	-
Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme		1,105	1,105	-
Good Things Foundation		1,000	1,000	-
The Hyman Robertson Trust		650	650	-
Glasgow Walking Group		400	400	-
Scottish Refugee Council				31,222
Shine Your Light Community		140	140	4,990
Migrant Help				2,413
Total	5,000	24,730	29,730	51,377

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Total						

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Bike purchased and handed out		6,439			6,439	-
Office Rent		8,400			8,400	6,000
Utilities		2,435			2,435	2,920
Payment to Accountant	400				400	300
Repairs and Maintenance of Equipment		50			50	310
Workshops, Events and Training	4,073	1,300			5,373	3,430
Staff costs						11,708
Safety Compliance & Insurance		525			525	-
Media and IT Expenses		422			422	1,050
Volunteer Expenses		3,387			3,387	4,500
Spent on Children Play Activities and Events during summer		1,105			1,105	2,310
Payment to Consultants		550			550	1,500
Telephone Expenses		560			560	720
Travel Expenses Reimbursed		2,924			2,924	4,096
Refreshment		720			720	2,559
Advert and Publicity		621			621	1,310
Total	4,473	29,438			33,911	43,393

Additional analysis (2)

5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Robertson Trust	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations					-	337
Grants	5,000				5,000	3,000
Sub total	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	3,337
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	3,337
Payments						
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	4,473				4,473	683
					-	-
Sub total	4,473	-	-	-	4,473	683
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	-
Purchase of investments					-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,473	-	-	-	4,473	683
Net receipts / (payments)	527	-	-	-	527	2,654
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	527	-	-	-	527	2,654

Nature and purpose of funds

The Robertson Trust Small Grant was used to pay accountant fee, workshops, training, events and volunteering expenses

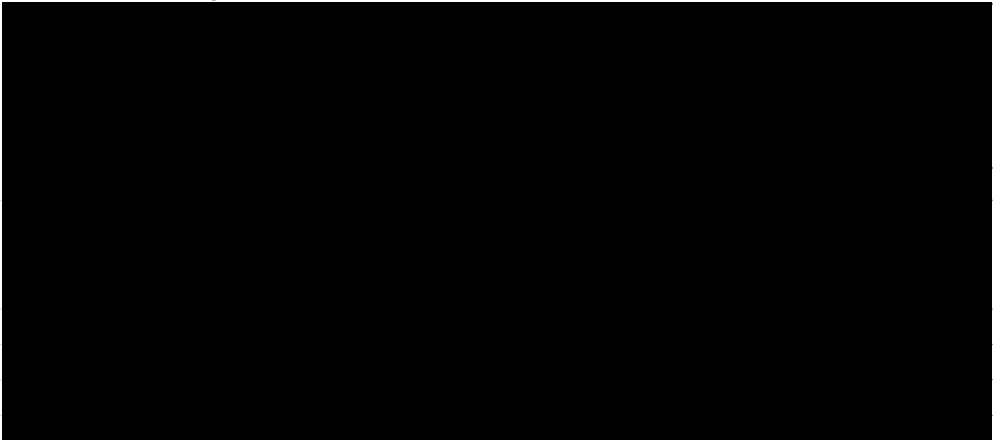
Additional analysis (3)

6 Breakdown of restricted funds

	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 5 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 5 - enter name of fund below	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
	Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector	Cycling UK	Impact Funding Partners	Sported Foundation	Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme	Good Things Foundation	The Hyman Robertson Trust	Glasgow Walking Group	Shine Your Light Community			
Receipts												
Grants	10,500	6,439	2,496	2,000	1,105	1,000	650	400	140		24,730	48,377
Sub total	10,500	6,439	2,496	2,000	1,105	1,000	650	400	140		24,730	48,377
Receipts from asset & investment sales												
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Total receipts	10,500	6,439	2,496	2,000	1,105	1,000	650	400	140		24,730	48,377
Payments												
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	10,500.00	6,439	2,496	2,000	1,105	1,000	650	400	140		24,730	48,377
Sub total	10,500	6,439	2,496	2,000	1,105	1,000	650	400	140		24,730	48,377
Payments relating to asset and investment movements												
Purchases of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Total payments	10,500	6,439	2,496	2,000	1,105	1,000	650	400	140		24,730	48,377
Net receipts / (payments)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Transfers to / (from) funds												
Surplus / (deficit) for year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-

Nature and purpose of funds

Glasgow Council for the Voluntary sector funded the health and wellbeing workshops and activities for the women. Cycling UK funded the 1st batch of bike lessons and giving out of biked to women and young people within the community. The impact Funding Partners funded the anti-racism consultation events carried out. Sported Foundation funded the sporting activities for women, families and young people. Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme fund the children and their families summer activities, events and trip to Loch Lomond. Good things foundation funded the media and IT expenses of the organisation. The Hyman Roberston funded the wellbeing workshop organised for the women. The Glasgow Walking Group fund received was for organising daily walk exercise for the women. The Robertson Trust Small Grant was used to organise workshop, trainings, events, volunteering expenses and pay accountant fee.

		Independent examiner's report on the accounts						v2
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity name	SHARPEN HER: THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK (SHAWN)						
	Registered charity number	SC050897						
	On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date				Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	04	2024	to	31	03	2025	
Set out on pages							(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</p>							
Basis of independent examiner's statement	<p>My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.</p>							
Independent examiner's statement	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]</p>							
	<p>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations <p>have not been met, or</p> <p>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p>							
Signed:								
Name:								
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):								
Address:								

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

**Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose**

None

