

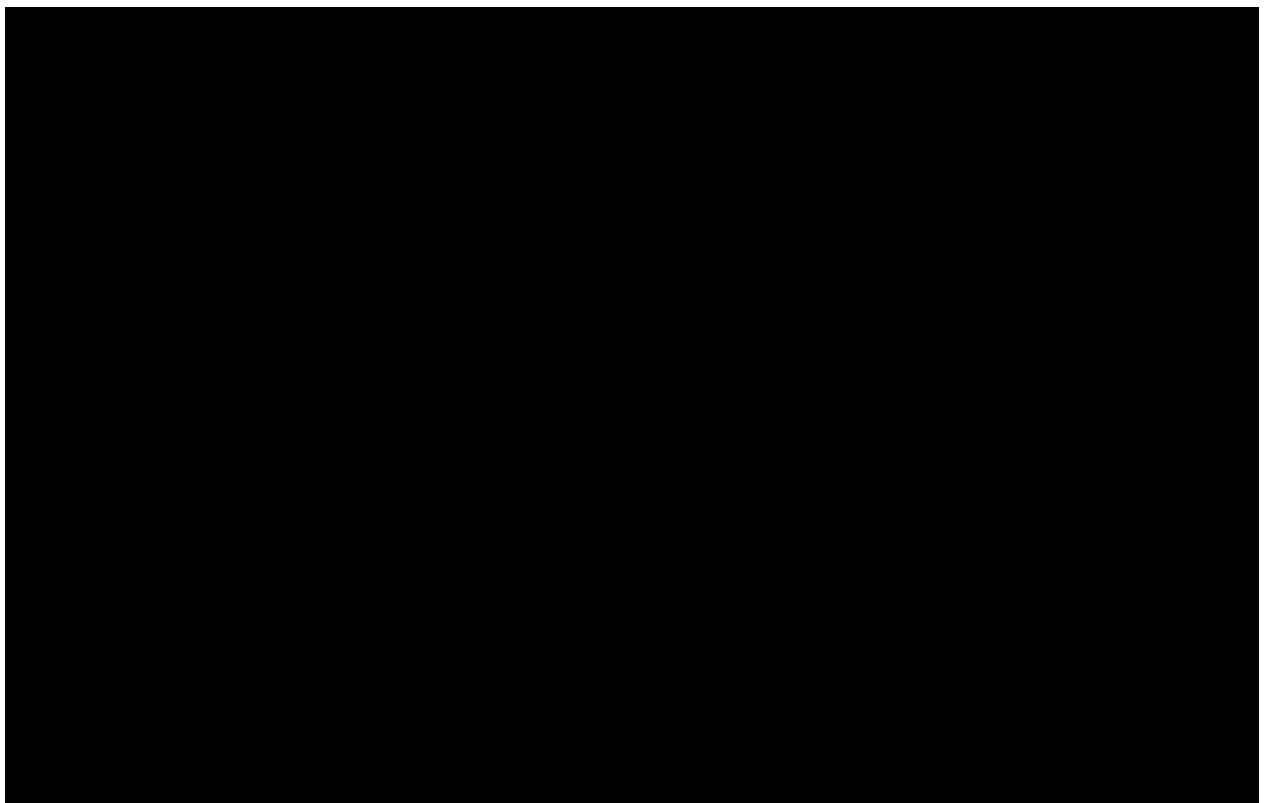


International
Association for
Democracy

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRACY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

11 AUGUST 2023 TO 31 AUGUST 2024



CHARITY CONTACT INFORMATION



International
Association for
Democracy

Charity's name: International Association for Democracy
Scottish Charity Number: SC052745
Address: 5 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh
Postcode: EH2 4AN

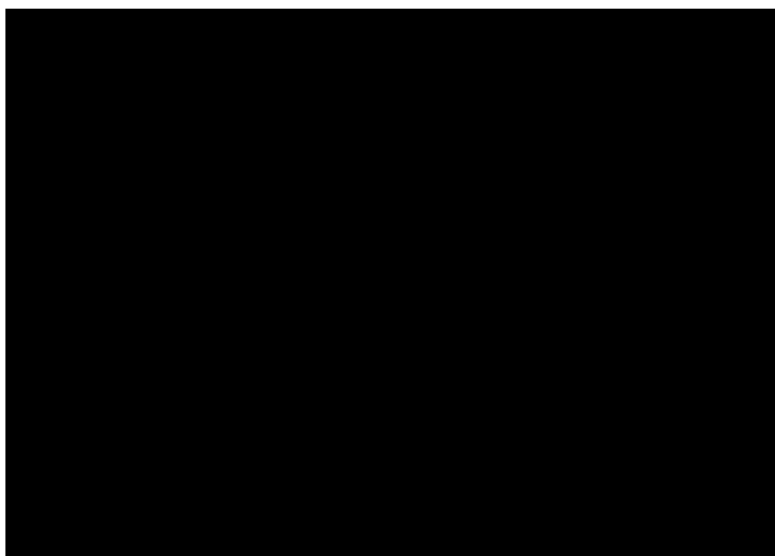
Website: <https://iad.ngo/>
Twitter: https://twitter.com/ia_democracy
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IADemocracy>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/iademocracy/>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ia-democracy/>
Threads: <https://www.threads.net/@iademocracy>

CHARITY TRUSTEES

Name of all charity trustees for the period, and the date they left if they were not in post for the whole year.



Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report:



OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

TYPE OF GOVERNING DOCUMENT

Constitution

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT

ELIGIBILITY

A person will not be eligible for election or appointment to the board if they are:

- (a) disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; or
- (b) an employee of the organisation.

INITIAL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The individuals who signed the charity trustee declaration forms which accompanied the application for incorporation of the organisation shall be deemed to have been appointed by the members as charity trustees with effect from the date of incorporation of the organisation.

APPOINTMENT/RETIRAL

The board may at any time appoint any person to be a charity trustee - by way of a resolution passed by majority vote at a board meeting.

Any proposed charity trustee shall undergo a three-month probationary period. The newly appointed charity trustee holds full voting rights, except for the confirmation vote on their position as a trustee. At the end of the probation period, the board shall hold a confirmation vote on the final appointment of the newly appointed charity trustee – by way of a resolution passed by majority vote at a board meeting. The newly appointed charity trustee cannot participate in this vote. If the newly appointed charity trustee is not confirmed by a majority of trustees, (s)he will no longer be a member of the board effective immediately. The newly

appointed charity trustee can also be removed by a majority vote of the board at any point within the three-month probationary period.

At the conclusion of the first Annual General Meeting (AGM), one third (to the nearest round number) of the charity trustees shall retire from office; the question of which of them is to retire shall be determined by some random method.

At the conclusion of each AGM (other than the first):

- (a) any charity trustees appointed during the period since the preceding AGM (but excluding those re-appointed under clause 22 during that period) shall retire from office;
- (b) out of the remaining charity trustees, one third (to the nearest round number) shall retire from office.

The charity trustees to retire under paragraph (b) of clause 21 shall be those who have been longest in office since they were last appointed or reappointed; as between persons who were last appointed/re-appointed on the same date, the question of which of them is to retire shall be determined by some random method.

A charity trustee who retires from office under clause 20 or 21 at the conclusion of an AGM shall be eligible for re-appointment under clause 18 at the next board meeting.

A charity trustee vacating office at the conclusion of an AGM will be deemed to have been re-elected at the board meeting which next follows unless:

- (a) they advise the board that they do not wish to be re-appointed; or
- (b) a resolution for the re-appointment of that charity trustee was put to the board meeting and was not carried.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

CHARITABLE PURPOSES

The advancement of human rights by promoting and advancing around the globe:

- (a) democracy;
- (b) the rule of law; and
- (c) human rights.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO THESE OBJECTS

The International Association for Democracy (IAD) was created by a group of individuals from across Europe who were alarmed by the growing threats to democracy and the inadequate response from Western democratic nations. We were driven to act by events such as the passage of the Hong Kong national security law, the fall of Afghanistan's democratically elected government, the erosion of democratic values in Hungary and Poland, and Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. These situations highlighted the urgent need for stronger, coordinated international efforts to defend and promote democracy. In response, we campaign for a world where democracy and freedom flourish, where people's voices are

heard, elections are free and fair, the rule of law is upheld, and human rights are universally protected.

To achieve its charitable purpose, IAD has worked to raise public awareness about the importance of democracy, the rule of law and human rights and the threats they face. Our initiatives are aimed at a wide audience, including the people of Scotland, Europe, and the wider world. We also run various projects that focus on more specific groups of beneficiaries, ensuring targeted impact and support.

IAD'S WORK TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT DEMOCRACY

This is what we consider to be our core work. IAD focused on raising public awareness about the value of democracy and the threats it faces globally. We are active on Facebook, Threads, Instagram, X, LinkedIn and Youtube and published at least one social media post per day on a topic relating to democracy. We also started creating engaging videos on topics relating to democracy, including explainer videos to simply explain topics relating to democracy to the public. We ran social media campaigns and Google ad campaigns that empowered citizens in the UK and EU by highlighting the power of their votes in the UK General Election and the EU Parliament Election. We have written opinion pieces that were featured in major outlets like Euractiv and Euronews in order to further raise awareness and understanding about democracy and have reached diverse communities, including Spanish-speaking audiences. Monthly newsletters connected us with an international readership, sparking conversations on democracy and human rights. Our work helped raise public awareness and understanding about the importance of democracy across the UK, the EU, and beyond.

IAD'S RESEARCH & LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

IAD conducted in-depth research on threats to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Ukraine, in particular as a result of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. We spent a significant amount of time conducting thorough research and preparing a policy brief on how the EU can better support democracy in Ukraine and how the EU can deter Russia from continuing its illegal invasion of Ukraine, which is taking over Ukrainian territory by force and imposing Putin's regime on the people living there. The policy brief proposes how the EU can strengthen its sanctions framework against Russia and close any loopholes in the current sanctions framework. We propose improved effective sanctions as they are a tool to make it clear to Putin's regime that the illegal invasion of a sovereign democratic nation has consequences and to make it costly for Putin's regime to continue its illegal war. We also proposed targeted sanctions on human rights violators. In addition, to aid Ukraine's democratic transition, we proposed EU support for governance reforms, civic engagement, anti-corruption measures, human rights education, and independent media. With the completion of the policy brief, IAD is currently sharing the policy brief with EU politicians and officials and requesting meetings to persuade them to adopt our proposed measures. These efforts aim to benefit the Ukrainian people by raising EU awareness of and support for democracy, human rights and freedom. They also aim to benefit the international community; tough EU sanctions make it clear to other authoritarian regimes that the illegal invasion and the attempt to overthrow the democratically elected government of another country will have serious economic consequences.

INTERNAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORK

While aiming to drive positive global change, we prioritised building strong internal capacity to support our mission. Between August 2023 and August 2024, we expanded our operations, establishing a dedicated team of 50 active volunteers by August 2024. We strengthened our Board of Trustees with a new member and improved our organisational structure for greater efficiency. We implemented internal policies, including a Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI) policy and a conflict resolution mechanism, fostering a professional and supportive environment. Additionally, we opened a bank account and launched our first crowdfunding campaign.

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

IAD's mission to defend and promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights relies on collaboration. We worked to build meaningful partnerships, such as with Unlock Democracy, resulting in educational videos on key democratic issues set for release in early 2025. Our partnership with the Democracy and Culture Foundation led to our participation in the Athens Democracy Forum, where we engaged in global discussions on current democracy topics.

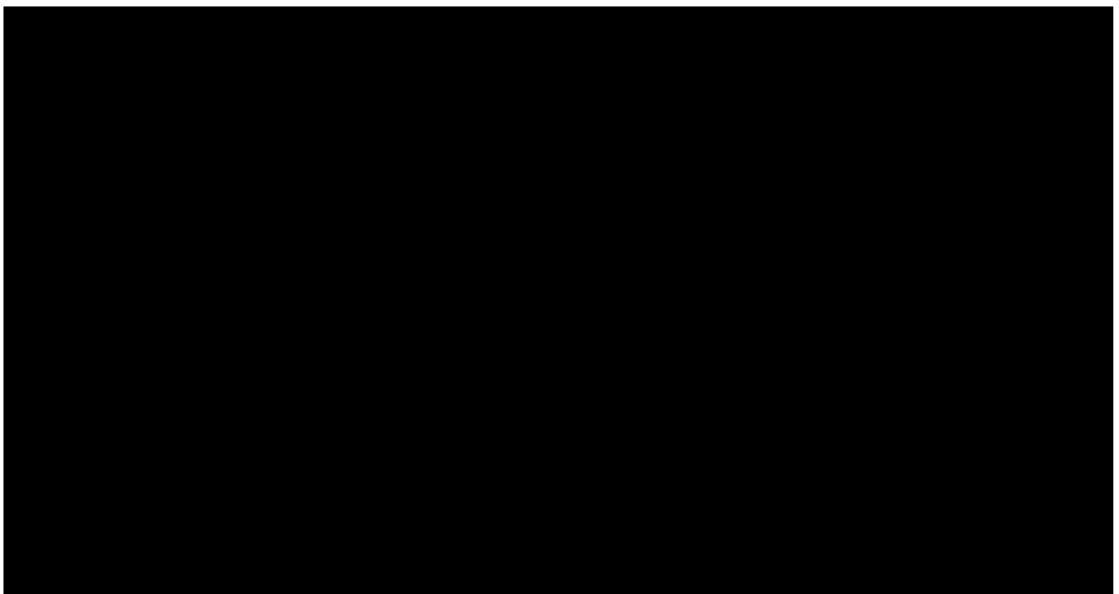
ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

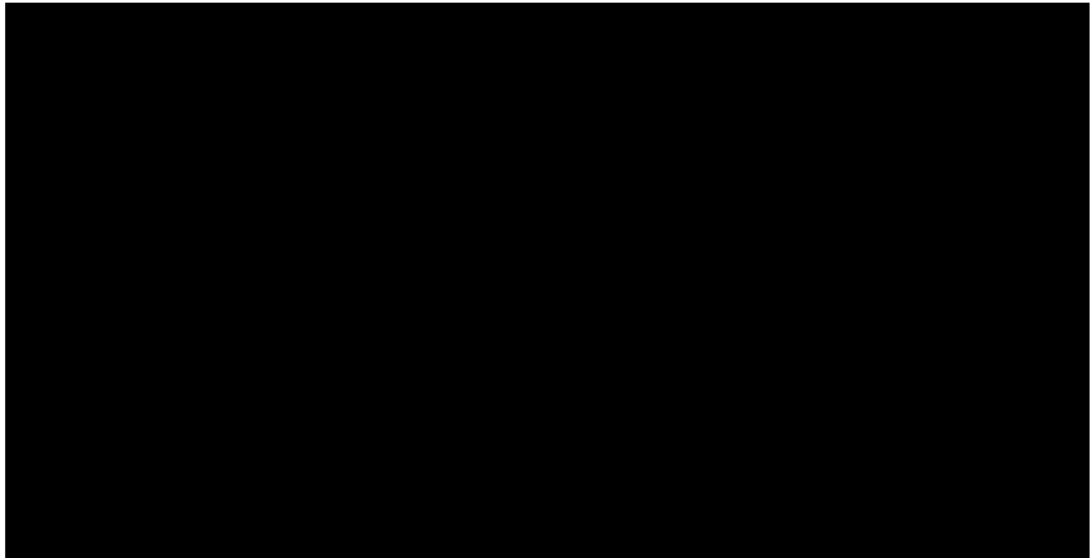
SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHARITY DURING THE FINANCIAL PERIOD

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

IAD's work has significantly raised public awareness of democracy and its value in today's world. Through targeted social media campaigns, impactful opinion pieces, and well-planned awareness initiatives, we reached diverse audiences across the globe, highlighting the opportunities democracy affords and the critical threats it currently faces.

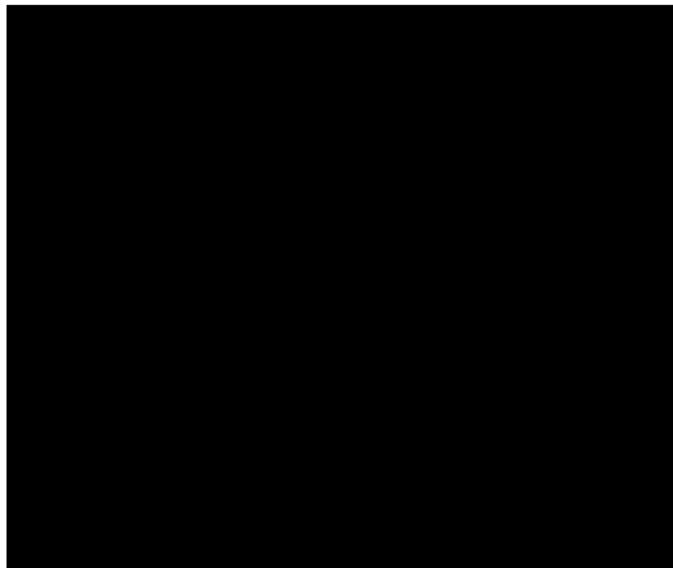
By August 2024 our social media presence grew rapidly to over 8k followers across all of IAD's social media platforms, allowing us to engage with thousands and bring timely attention to pressing democracy issues.



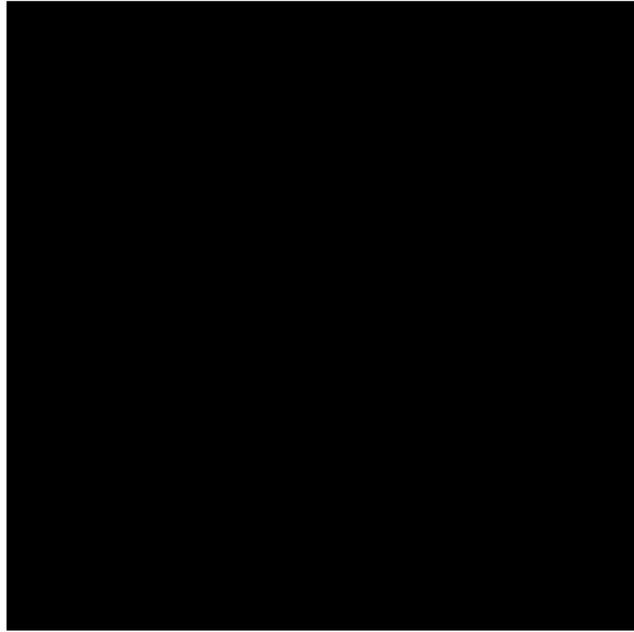


Additionally, our opinion pieces published in major outlets, such as Euractiv and Euronews, further expanded our reach, ensuring that our message reached readers across Europe.

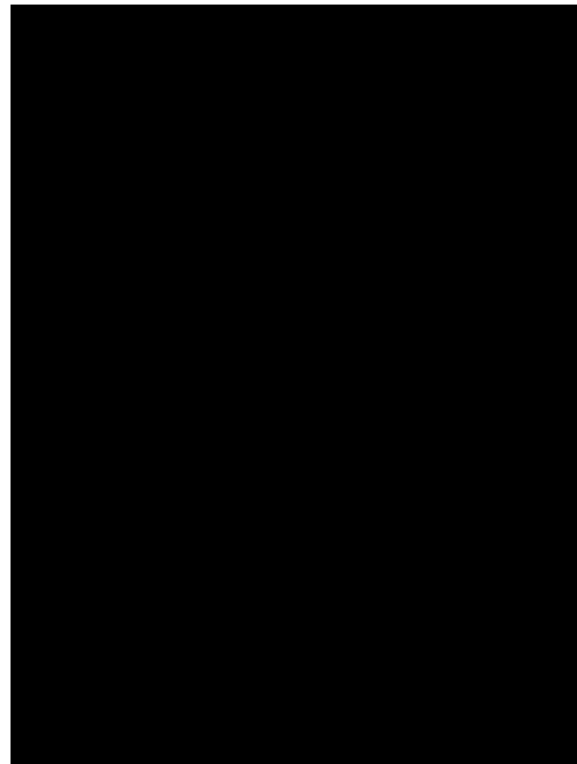
Euronews. ['Ukraine war' is not good enough. Let's call it what it is: Russia's illegal invasion.](#)



Euronews. [Could the COVID-19 pandemic have been avoided if China were a democracy?](#)



Euractiv. [Spanish election vote against democratic backsliding - for now.](#)



México Publica. [Días críticos para la democracia Guatemalteca.](#)



We also launched targeted campaigns to encourage people to participate in the democratic process, including ["Why Should You Vote in the 2024 EU Elections?"](#) and ["Why Should You Vote in the 2024 UK General Election?"](#) These campaigns have effectively connected with audiences across the EU and the UK, with educational videos reaching over 3.7k views and engagement across all our social media channels.

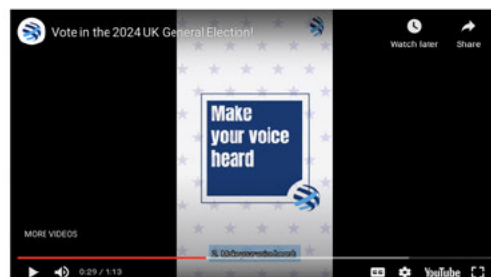
Why Should You Vote in the 2024 EU elections?

See our video below



Why Should You Vote in the 2024 UK General Election?

See our video below

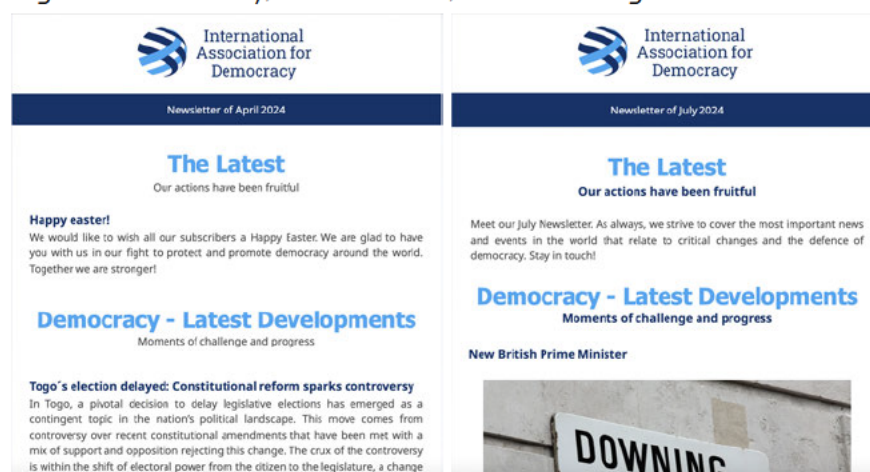


We have also prepared several explainer videos that describe issues like [Women's suffrage in the USA](#), [democratic backsliding](#), [what AI has to do with democracy](#), and [the link between climate change and democracy](#).



Our awareness campaigns on IAD's social media platforms usually reach over 17k accounts and 4k content interactions (data for the period August 2023-August 2024). These initiatives not only informed but motivated audiences to recognize the power and responsibility that come with voting, underscoring the role each person plays in supporting and upholding democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

Additionally, our [newsletters](#) that provide educational content on the topics of democracy, the rule of law and human rights have continued to build an international community of subscribers, reaching 104 subscribers in various countries by August 2024 and fostering an ongoing dialogue on democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.



Overall, IAD has effectively raised awareness and sparked essential conversations, fostering a stronger, more informed commitment to democratic values, the rule of law and human rights around the world.

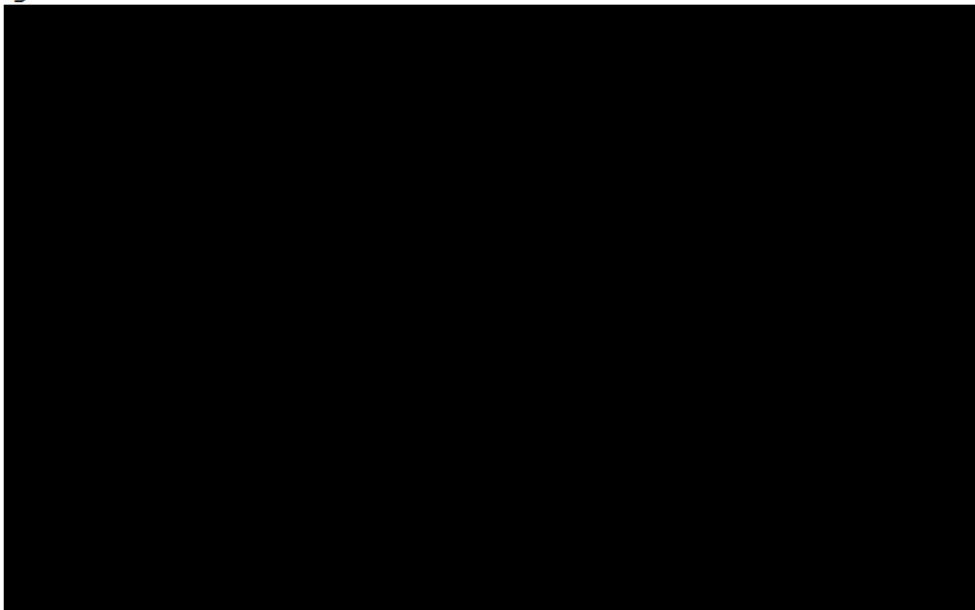
RESEARCH & LOBBYING

The policy brief we prepared on how the EU can better foster democracy in Ukraine and how the EU can deter Russia from continuing its illegal invasion of Ukraine is currently being shared with EU politicians and officials. We are requesting meetings with these politicians and officials to persuade them to adopt our proposed measures. These efforts aim to benefit the Ukrainian people by getting the EU to take further steps in promoting democracy, human rights and freedom. They also aim to benefit the international community by making it clear to other authoritarian regimes that the illegal invasion and the attempt to overthrow the democratically elected government of another country has economic consequences.

INTERNAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORK

Through focused efforts, IAD achieved significant progress in strengthening internal capacity and driving meaningful change. Between August 2023 and August 2024, we established a dedicated team of 50 active volunteers by August 2024. While volunteer turnover due to external commitments remains a challenge, continuous recruitment has kept our team strong. We enhanced governance by adding a new Board of Trustees member and refining our structure for better efficiency and collaboration.

We also prioritised a professional, inclusive environment by introducing a Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI) policy and implementing a conflict resolution mechanism to support a positive work culture. Additionally, we laid the groundwork for financial growth by opening a bank account and launching our first crowdfunding campaign, raising money to cover essential costs like our PO box and website. While modest, this initial effort set a foundation for future sustainability, enabling IAD to grow responsibly and continue advancing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.



PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

Through strategic partnership building, IAD achieved impactful outcomes that amplified our mission to defend and promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. Our collaboration with Unlock Democracy led to an agreement to create educational videos on essential democratic issues, providing an engaging and accessible resource for the public. These are set to be released in early 2025, marking a significant step in our efforts to raise awareness and foster democratic understanding.

Our partnership with the Democracy and Culture Foundation has also had a significant impact. Being invited to the Athens Democracy Forum allowed IAD to join global conversations with leading voices on the critical challenges facing democracy today. This experience not only broadened our influence but also reinforced IAD's standing as a credible advocate for democratic values on the international stage. Together, these partnerships have expanded our reach, solidified our role in the global democratic dialogue, and created pathways for ongoing education and awareness-building, making a lasting difference in our mission to defend and promote democracy.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

STATEMENT OF THE CHARITY'S POLICY ON RESERVES

Our charity operates with a policy of holding £0 in reserves.

Due to the low frequency and modest scale of our expenditures, which only have to cover core functionality, such as web hosting and a P.O. Box, maintaining a reserve fund is not necessary for our operations.

In the event of unforeseen or urgent expenses, board members have always been prepared to cover these costs personally, ensuring continuity without requiring a formal reserve.

This approach allows us to focus all available resources directly on advancing our mission and run as efficiently as possible.

DETAILS OF ANY DEFICIT

IAD has never gone into deficit.

I wish to add a note to explain the £2.55 shortfall in our bank account balance compared with the expected net balance given our total incomings minus outgoings, which is visible on our Annual Accounts Report spreadsheet.

We only opened a bank account in January of 2024, so for the period prior to that, our previous Treasurer () was advised by OSCR to use his personal bank account for IAD purposes. In this context, we ran a crowdfunder and raised £206.53 (converted from EUR to GBP at the exchange rate on the date that these crowdfunder donations were received, which was 28/08/23).

The funds were then used to pay for our P.O. Box on 31/08/23, which cost £203.98. These monies were paid directly out of [REDACTED] account to pay for this.

The difference in these deposits vs expenses is £2.55, and the source of the £2.55 shortfall in our bank account compared to what we should expect to have there, as these funds were not subsequently transferred into our organisational bank account once it was opened, and soon after, [REDACTED] replaced [REDACTED] as Treasurer.

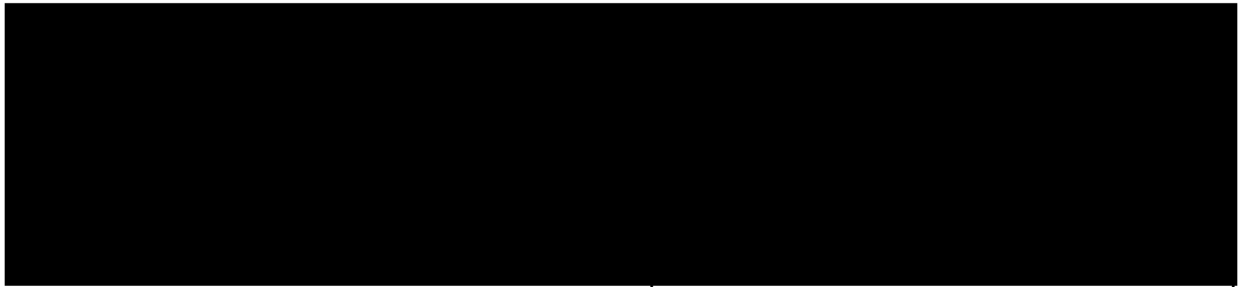
To solve this [REDACTED] has been asked to now transfer the £2.55 into our bank account. However, this income will fall outside of the financial year covered by this annual report, and so not relevant to the bank account balance at the close of this period. It will mean that next years accounts will fully balance though.

DONATED FACILITIES AND SERVICES

N/A

DECLARATION

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Designation	Co-Director
Date	22/11/2024

International Association for Democracy

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 August 2024

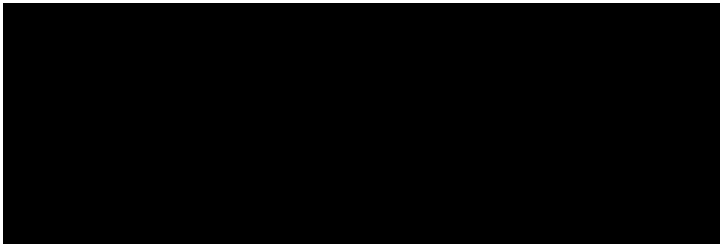
	2024 £
Receipts	
Crowdfunders	471
Other donations	<u>1</u>
Total Receipts in year	<u>472</u>
Payments:	
<i>Fundraising costs</i>	
Crowdfunder	8
<i>Payments for charitable activities:</i>	
P.O. Box	204
Web costs	55
<i>Governance costs:</i>	<u>-</u>
Total Payments in year	<u>267</u>
Net Receipts in year	<u>205</u>

International Association for Democracy

Statement of Balances as at 31 August 2024

	Note	At 31/8/24 £
Funds reconciliation		
Opening balance		-
Net receipts in year		205
Closing balance		205
Bank & cash balances		
Business current account		203
Personal current account	4	2
Total funds		205

The accounts on pages 15 to 17 were approved by the Trustees on 11 November 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Co-Director

International Association for Democracy

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 August 2024

1. Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds can be used in furtherance of any of the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees. A single unrestricted fund is maintained for the day to day operations of the Charity.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

All the funds of The International Association for Democracy are unrestricted.

3. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to trustees during the year.

Reimbursement of £17 was paid to one trustee for website purchase.

4. Bank accounts

The charity's bank account was opened in January 2024. Prior to this the previous Treasurer was advised by OSCR to use his personal bank account for IAD purposes. Crowdfunding income of £206.53 was paid into the personal account and a payment of £203.98 was made for PO Box leaving a balance of £2.55 which was transferred to the charity's bank account after the financial year-end.

APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts						v2
Report to the trustees/members of		International Association for Democracy						
Registered charity number		SC052745						
On the accounts of the charity for the period		Period start date				Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
		11	August	2023	to	31	August	2024
Set out on pages		15 to 17						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner		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 (as amended). 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.						
Basis of independent examiner's statement		My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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 view given by the accounts.						
Independent examiner's statement		<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. 						
Signed:							Date:	24 March 2025
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