

JOINT COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF IMMIGRANTS

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2023-24



**FOR THE PERIOD  
APRIL 2023 – MARCH 2024**

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# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STAND FOR

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report, accompanied by the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024, prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and of the Companies Act. These financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements 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 2019).

## ABOUT US

Since 1967, JCWI has been challenging laws, policies, and media narratives that lead to discrimination, destitution, and the denial of rights for people who move.

We provide award-winning legal aid representation to the people who need it most, focusing on representing the most marginalised migrants. And we are building a community-driven and lived-experience led movement for migrant justice.

JCWI is a member organisation; a member may be an individual, a corporate body, or an individual or corporate body representing an organisation which is not incorporated.

We combine holistic, expert legal advice and representation with advocacy and campaigns that are led by and with those most impacted by experiences of migration, and which bring together groups, networks and individuals with a shared vision for a more just society.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is a society in which people are able to live safely and are treated with equal dignity and respect, regardless of where they are from or how they came to the UK.

## OUR MISSION

We exist to support people to have fulfilling lives in the UK. We challenge racist and discriminatory policies and rhetoric on immigration and educate our communities to create systemic change and improve the lives of people who move, whether they move by force or by choice.

# OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

## IN THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 2024, WE:

Represented **278 clients to provide legal advice and assistance**, ranging from support with complex asylum claims including survivors of trafficking and torture to representing those in immigration, winning human rights appeals, and supporting people to reunite with family members.

Responded to **716 calls to our Irregular Migrant Helpline**, providing tailored, rapid advice to those with pressing questions about their legal status, or who have found themselves cut off from support services.

**Advised 59 people who had been detained**, through our Immigration Removal Centre legal aid contract, securing bail in almost all cases. **Advised 56 people who are experiencing or at risk of destitution**, through our partnership with the British Red Cross.

Delivered **32 expert-led training sessions to individuals and organisations**, training 264 people across topics including OISC (Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner) training, Unlawful Detention, and skills for managing one's own case.

Responded to **692 referrals through UNISON**, one of the largest unions with 1.3 million members, dealing with all aspects of immigration law.

Contributed to **six policy briefings** on key themes including the Illegal Migration Bill and Safety of Rwanda Act.

**Launched 'Resist & Persist: Your Guide to Tackling the Hostile Environment'**, along with 5 other explainers and resources, in collaboration with our lived experience advisory board.

We contributed just under **100 quotes to stories in national and international press** and our spokespeople made just under **50 TV and radio appearances**.

Published **7 opinion pieces** in outlets ranging from The Independent to New Scientist, and **assisted investigative journalists in breaking stories on issues that affect our clients**.

**Provided 6 evidence submissions to government consultations** across issues covering Human Rights Law, systemic racism, the Rwanda plan, and access to legal aid.

# MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Dear reader,

*Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report and learn more about JCWI's work. The year spanning from April 2023 to March 2024 was, in many ways, a horrifying one for all those who are forced to flee persecution and violence, and for all those who stand for safety, dignity and justice for everybody who moves and who builds their life here in the UK.*

*In the year ending March 2024 there were 1.4 million grants of entry clearance for individuals and families arriving in the UK that weren't visitors or short-term stays. This was made up of visas for work, study, joining family, and others like the Ukraine schemes. During this time, 69,298 people claimed asylum in the UK. We also know that there are somewhere between 800,000 and 1.2 million undocumented migrants in the UK<sup>1</sup>. All of these people, alongside many more who have been in the UK for months, years or decades, may at some time or another find themselves in need of legal assistance and support.*

*However, it was also a year where we saw the immense power and solidarity that individuals, groups, charities, and networks have when we come together in support of fundamental rights and freedoms for all people, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, religion or background.*

*Most people want to see all members of our community supported in times of need, and this has been reflected in waves of united campaigning and activism that have contributed to meaningful change in the face of hostile policies. At the same time, successive governments have exploited migration for political gain, using the mistreatment of migrants to garner publicity and advance alternate agendas.*

*We know that this is wrong, and we know that there is a solution. We need just and accessible migration and asylum policies that grant people safety, welcome and the chance to thrive, and which place individuals, families and communities at the centre. We also need increased public awareness around key issues such as inaccessibility of routes to status for undocumented migrants, experiences of profound poverty disproportionately affecting people with migrant backgrounds, risks of exploitation within employment and housing amongst those with insecure legal status, and the inextricable links between the climate crisis, environmental justice, and migration.*

*In a year where the operating environment has been incredibly hostile, and violent, and where funding available for charities, especially those supporting migrants has become ever scarcer, we know that our work is needed now more than ever.*

*Since the end of the financial year that this report covers, the UK now has a new government. Many harmful policies, such as the Rwanda plan, and the use of the barge the Bibby Stockholm to house asylum seekers, have been overturned, providing critical evidence that public pressure can and does work.*

*Nonetheless, misinformation and harmful rhetoric relating to people who move remains present. The racist and Islamophobic riots in August 2024, fuelled by years of mis- and disinformation regarding people fleeing persecution, were a terrifying example of this.*

*Following the launch of our new strategy and objectives, alongside our We Move manifesto developed with leadership from our lived experience advisory board, we are redoubling our efforts to make positive change that is both person-centred and which drives impact at the system level. In parallel to providing wraparound legal assistance and connected support to those affected by hostile migration policies, we also work to ensure that opportunities to come together in support of safety and opportunities for all members of our communities are front and centre in public awareness and policy-making agendas.*

*We have also invested significant time and resources in strengthening JCWI's culture at every level. Internally we have worked to strengthen the organisational governance and controls that allow us to become bolder, more agile, and even better prepared to respond to the range of issues we are called upon to support with or campaign about within the current landscape. Externally, this was reflected in the development and launch of our new website, building our movement of supporters, and with the diverse array of partners and coalitions we work together with.*

*We owe everyone who has contributed to our work, whether by sharing online content, donating to our work, educating those around them about what a fairer future for people who move looks like, or by participating in joint campaigns, a tremendous debt of gratitude. To JCWI's staff, and in particular to our lived experience advisory board, we remain endlessly admiring and committed to supporting your vital, necessary work. To our clients, we thank you for placing your trust in us, and we remain committed to standing beside everyone affected by the UK's hostile policies for as long as it takes to secure the outcomes our clients need and deserve.*

Yours,  
The JCWI board of trustees

# OUR STRATEGY

At the start of the financial year, we were pleased to launch a new one-year strategy, titled 'The Road Ahead', centred around our core values of Justice, Equality, Humanity, Solidarity, Creativity & Accountability. In addition to encompassing the core pillars of our work itself, this roadmap also includes a strategic objective focused on organisational resilience and workplace culture. Our overarching objectives for the year were as follows:

- 1) Strengthen the movement working to improve the lives of people who move, by amplifying grassroots groups and challenging the establishment.**
- 2) Use law, advocacy, and the media to respond to and challenge damaging and discriminatory immigration policies and to challenge dominant narratives about migration.**
- 3) Provide high-quality legal advice and information to support people making the UK their home.**
- 4) Work as a team to make JCWI a happy, resilient, and rewarding place to work by sharing knowledge, collaborating across the organisation, and implementing the policies and practices we need to manage our resources effectively.**

The coming pages will showcase the work achieved under the first three objectives in more detail. Objective four has been pursued through ongoing work, in collaboration with JCWI's trustees, new Executive Director, and senior leadership team, in reviewing and updating key policies relating to ways of working, hosting reflective practice sessions and safeguarding workshops across the wider team, and building on our successes in cross-team collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

# HOW WE MAKE CHANGE

## Our Activities

*carried out in an interconnected, holistic way, led and informed by and with our lived experience advisory board and strategy*



## Tangible changes

*aligned to our strategic objectives*

**Grassroots groups are amplified, and the movement is strengthened**

**People making the UK their home receive dignified, holistic support**

**Dominant narratives about migration that perpetuate harm are challenged**

**Fairer, more humane policies for people who move are implemented**

# HOW WE MAKE CHANGE

## Long-term vision

*contributed to by the changes we bring about*

**A society in which people are able to live safely and are treated with equal dignity and respect, regardless of where they are from or how they came to the UK.**

## Public Benefit

The trustees of JCWI have given due regard to the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, Charities Act, and Charities Commission guidance on reporting public benefit in the exercising of all duties during the financial year.

Within all activities undertaken and within the development of the organisational strategy for the year, the trustees have centred JCWI's charitable purposes. These are:

The prevention or relief of poverty in particular but not exclusively by the provision of advice, counsel, assistance and representation in relation to immigration and nationality to those who could not otherwise obtain these as a result of their lack of resources;

To advance education and training on the law and related subjects in particular to law that may affect immigrants;

To promote the human rights arising under or by virtue of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the promotion of the Convention Rights

As an organisation that provides direct support to clients who are often experiencing extreme poverty and hardship, for whom legal assistance and casework support are often some of the most powerful ways to contribute to alleviating this, and which is dedicated to overcoming the impacts of discrimination and inequities within the UK, we meet our charitable purposes through a multilateral approach.



# OUR IMPACT: LEGAL

Whilst as an organisation we seek to create fairer policy and rights, our lawyers help people to access those fundamental rights, both by providing representation to clients, and by providing advice via our helplines and outreach work. We fight for people to gain status, secure their liberty from immigration detention, prevent people from being deported, win human rights appeals, bring families together, and enable those fleeing to the UK to gain safety and security and build new lives in the UK. We seek to bring wider change through systemic challenges, legal interventions, and providing key evidence in cases brought by other organisations.

Our legal team often support the most marginalised groups - asylum seekers and stateless persons who have fled persecution, victims of trafficking and torture, unaccompanied children who have arrived alone in the UK, people in immigration detention, and those who have lived years, decades, without status in the UK, under the shadow of the hostile environment.

The people we work for include people with complex mental health challenges, those living with the debilitating symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and people who are unhoused and without the ability to access the usual forms of support.

We know that experiences of migration are compounded by intersectional forms of oppression that we actively seek to dismantle, and the diverse situations of those we work with is a testament to this. Experiences of racism, gender-based discrimination and violence, homophobia, stigma around mental health, and other types of discrimination frequently compound our clients' challenges in accessing legal structures and bureaucratic systems surrounding migration. We remain intentionally anti-oppressive in our practice and trauma-informed in all that we do.

# OUR CLIENTS & WRAPAROUND SUPPORT

A truly safe and welcoming place from which people can regain agency over their lives doesn't stop at legal status. That's why JCWI focuses on providing holistic, 'wraparound' support to legal clients.

We recognise that people's immigration needs seldom exist in isolation from their wider needs as human beings – secure accommodation, healthcare, food, community. Our legal team steps up to provide connected practical and wellbeing support. This can range from providing emergency food and basic needs vouchers, clothes, finding emergency accommodation via homeless services through to longer-term assistance such as providing help applying for benefits, as well as securing health and support services such as GP or hospital referrals, and counselling or mental health support. When clients are at a stage where they are able to move forward, our Support Worker also works with clients to find educational opportunities, volunteer placements aligned to their goals, grants to pursue education.

## Wraparound support in action: A's story

*"Thank you so much for the part you played in our lives. We shall live to remember you."*

A\* is a young woman who first contacted us in 2023 through our immigration advice line. We learnt that she had claimed asylum in the UK and was living in Home Office accommodation, and that she was pregnant and alone in the UK. She was 27 weeks pregnant, and so far had not had access to any kind of maternity healthcare.

Our Support Worker was able to help her register with a GP and charity Maternity Action, so that she could have her first screen test for the baby. Together, they also booked appointments with a midwife and mental health services, and we used our support fund to support A to buy clothes and toiletries. They also applied for hardship grants to help her get through the next stage in her pregnancy and parenting journey. A found that the baby was reacting badly to the food she was given to eat in the asylum hotel, and as such felt consistently unwell. With JCWI support, the management were finally pressured to provide her with alternative food. Following more than six months of coordinated legal and casework support, A has now given birth to a healthy baby.

# OUR IMPACT: ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS

Our advocacy and communications efforts are what bridge the gap between the work we do to support clients caught up in the hostile environment today, and work to change systems and attitudes in pursuit of a kinder, fairer future for all those who move, whether by force or by choice.

Our advocacy campaigns are cross-cutting and connect to all the other strands of our work, in particular our strategic litigation efforts, and our lived experience leadership strategy. Many of the key themes of our campaigns this year were linked to key moments within the political landscape in relation to refugees and other people arriving in the UK in search of safety. The following sections provide a non-exhaustive list of our campaigns:

## **#NotInOurName – campaigning against the Illegal Migration Bill**

In July 2023, the Illegal Migration Bill passed into law, becoming an Act. This Act stated, amongst other things, that anyone arriving in the UK via irregular routes such as small boat crossings would not be able to have their asylum claims considered or processed here in the UK. This fed into harmful rhetoric by political leaders around ‘stopping the boats’ and ignores the fact that for many people seeking safety, there are no other routes.

That’s why in September 2023, we **led a cross-sector coalition of grassroots and larger organisations advocating for the wholesale rejection** of the Illegal Migration Bill. This included **launching an open letter to the Prime Minister**, which was supported by nearly 2000 people. Well over 100 NGOs, individuals and MPs, including a mix of grassroots groups as well as bigger organisations, then participated in our Not In Our Name digital action.

The message was sent loud and clear: this Act was not passed in the name of the British public who care about supporting members of our community in search of peace and safety, nor in the name of the third sector organisations led by and with people who move.

# OUR IMPACT: ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS

## **Challenging unsafe housing in support of better lives for asylum seekers and migrants – a successful joint legal challenge**

In February 2024, the Home Office dropped plans to allow landlords to rent unsafe housing to people seeking asylum. This housing would be illegal to rent to British Citizens, and would have suspended fire safety and other standards for houses in multiple occupation procured to house people whose claims for international protection were being processed.

These plans were dropped as a result of a joint campaign run by JCWI alongside charities including RAMFEL, Shelter and NACCOM, and the Chartered Institute of Housing, alongside law firm Duncan Lewis. We drafted a joint briefing, organised a joint letter signed by nearly 140 organisations, and contributed evidence to the legal challenge brought by a group of eight asylum seekers represented by Duncan Lewis solicitors. This was a huge win – but one that demonstrates the importance of charities coming together to oppose unsafe and harmful practices, and stand for dignified support for all.

**“Everyone deserves a home that is decent and safe – instead of treating people seeking sanctuary as second class citizens, the government must act to quickly and fairly process asylum claims, and make sure local authorities are properly resourced to provide safe housing for all who need it.” - staff member, JCWI**

# OUR IMPACT: ADVOCACY

## Exploitation of Migrant Workers – a joint report

In March 2024, an in-depth report titled **‘UK agriculture and care visas: worker exploitation and obstacles to redress’** was published, based on research conducted by four NGOs including JCWI, alongside five academics across the Universities of Leicester, Royal Holloway, Bristol, Durham and York.

This piece addresses conditions attached to visa routes in both of these work sectors, issues of debt and wage deductions alongside misleading and coercive recruitment policies, and notes the role of the hostile policy environment in enhancing vulnerability to abuse, and making it more difficult for people to report it. These threads run through many of the stories our clients share.

## Campaigning against the Rwanda plan – joint mobilisation

The Safety of Rwanda Act, passed into law in April 2024, essentially forced decision makers to treat Rwanda as a ‘safe third country’ to which people seeking safety in the UK could be removed to. During the year ended April 2024, we took a number of actions to speak out against this policy, which was subsequently scrapped under a new government.

Campaigning against the Bill in November 2023, we led a joint mobilisation of human rights, migrant rights, and other sectors to respond to the Supreme Court ruling, showcasing strong resistance against the plan and creating a platform for future joint campaigning. In addition to releasing a joint statement with over 100 other organisations, we organised a cross-party statement urging the Government to respect the November 2023 Supreme Court decision on safety of Rwanda from 128 local councilors through our Migrant Champions Network. In March 2024 when the Bill became an Act we mobilised 227 councilors to collectively condemn the Rwanda Act and pledge to support constituents at risk of removal to Rwanda. This is a network of local councilors around the country who have pledged to support and promote migrant rights.

Prior to the Act being passed, it suffered several defeats in the House of Lords. JCWI evidence was quoted in the House of Lords International Agreements Committee inquiry into the Rwanda Treaty and influenced the committee to recommend against ratifying the treaty, given it cannot be guaranteed that the plan is safe for individuals who would be affected.

# OUR IMPACT: ADVOCACY

## Our Flagship Campaign: We Are Here.

Our We Are Here campaign seeks to gain **rights, recognition, and routes to status for undocumented migrants**, to build policy alternatives, and support and amplify grassroots groups and people with lived experience. As part of this, a core focus of our legal team has been to challenge the Home Office's refusal to grant Indefinite Leave to Remain to those who live in the precarious and dangerous situation of being undocumented. As we challenge these injustices through litigation, we also work to **develop progressive alternatives**. We collaborated with Praxis, GMIAU and other NGOs and migrant-led groups including the Refugee Workers Cultural Association to produce a **joint briefing on a 5-year route to settlement** which we gave to the Leader of the Opposition. This campaign builds on efforts from the publication of our 2021 'We Are Here' report, and has formed part of our multi-year advocacy strategy.



# IN THE MEDIA

Over the last year, our traditional media activity has been as successful as ever. Our team broke stories, challenged dominant narratives and influenced politicians through our media work.

We wrote seven articles in outlets from the Independent to the New Scientist. We contributed just under **100 quotes on key stories** broken by the Guardian, Independent, national, international and specialist print media. We ensured our spokespeople were the first to comment on breaking issues from Bibby Stockholm to Rwanda, with just under **50 radio and TV appearances across the year**.

Some of the highlights included our quote on HMO (housing of multiple occupancy) licensed accommodation for people who move making the front page of the Guardian, with a flood of enquiries setting us up as opinion leaders in the area of asylum housing. We also worked with the Big Issue to break a story on the newly introduced seven-day moving on period for those granted refugee status. Our piece set off a cascade of critical journalism and the Home Office quietly dropped their inhumane policy.

***“Without HMO licences, already traumatised people will be at risk of living in places that are unfit for human habitation.” - JCWI spokesperson to the Guardian***

We featured on multiple broadcast platforms, including the BBC, Sky and ITV. As we continue with our strategy to increase our reach outside of those who already share our views and have access to our content, our spokespeople featured on a Channel 5 Immigration special and LBC news. We also built connections with diaspora media with quotes in Asian Age and Eastern Eye. One quote we gave on Rishi Sunak’s new Channel crossings policy was syndicated 44 times, spreading across multiple platforms and bringing our message to new audiences.

# OUR DIGITAL OUTREACH

At JCWI, we see digital communications as multifaceted. As well as using our digital platforms for engagement, we seek to mobilise, organise, educate and shape the online narrative, recognising that this is a space where misinformation can spread quickly, and where there are important opportunities for reaching wider audiences.

Throughout the year, we used our digital platforms to lead a values-focused narrative online and to set the agenda on breaking news from Rwanda to Bibby Stockholm. We shared client stories and spread awareness about legal changes, focusing on building human connections and breaking down a narrative of 'othering'. We promoted the work of our legal team, and built online support around our campaigns, while continuing to strengthen a united movement by sharing our platform with grassroots organisations.

Our digital following and reach grew for the third year in a row. JCWI's Twitter (X) account saw over 18 million views across 370 posts, with an average of 160,000 views each month. As the online space becomes more video-centric we have pivoted our communications modalities to capitalise on this, posting 216 videos, and amassing over 2 million views on TikTok and Instagram.

We also ensured that we broke important legal advice during critical moments for migrants, including promoting our legal helpline which received over 550,000 views on Twitter. We're keen to ensure that our core messages are harmonised across both traditional and digital media outputs, and nothing exemplifies this more than the 400,000 Twitter views received on an article we wrote in the Big Issue. One of our most successful examples of our strategy in this area was the #NotInOurName campaign, (highlighted above) which generated support from more than 160 organisations who joined our digital campaign against the Illegal Migration Bill. The campaign built over 120k views across social media.

Twitter

**19M  
VIEWS**

Instagram

**12M  
VIEWS**

TikTok

**8M  
VIEWS**



# LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVISORY BOARD & STRATEGY

Being led by and with people who have personal or family experience of being new to the UK, and of navigating hostile and complex systems upon their arrival, is a crucial part of our work to be accountable to, and to best deliver change with, those most impacted by the UK's migration policies.

In the prior year, JCWI established a lived experience advisory board. The eight individuals on the Board have distinct immigration experiences such as going through the asylum system as a child, being undocumented, being on the 10-year route and having no recourse to public funds. All members are paid for their time, and provided with necessary training and resources.

One of the first major projects worked on by the Advisory Board was to help shape our new organisational strategy, enabling our work to be rooted in and led by the people most affected by it. The Advisory Board also fed into the recruitment process for JCWI's new Executive Director.

The group were also involved in the development of our launching the **We Move manifesto**, which was launched publicly in June 2024. This piece laid out our 5-point vision towards migrant justice through the core foundations of **rights, safety, dignity, justice & community**.

Since the end of the period covered within this report the Advisory Board have been drafting a key strategy document for the organisation, titled **From Lived Experience to Leadership: How JCWI Will Foster and Amplify the Voices of People with Lived Experience**.

*“For JCWI, the adoption of a lived experience strategy marks a significant milestone. It signifies an effort to envision a future where individuals with lived experience take the lead, representing and advocating for issues that directly impact us.” – member of the Advisory Board, speaking about their involvement in drafting the JCWI Lived Experience Strategy*

# TRAINING

JCWI has been a provider of professional legal training for over 50 years. Our courses are continually assessed to ensure that they are up-to-date with all relevant changes in immigration law and practice. Our trainers are experienced practitioners, including barristers and solicitors with a wealth of practical knowledge, which they bring to our courses through our unique participatory training method.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, we ran a total of 32 trainings (compared to 26 in the previous year), through which we trained 264 people (up from 116 in the prior year) across topics including:

- The OISC (Office of Immigration Services Commissioner) qualification to give immigration advice attended by individuals and charities who will go on to provide vital immigration advice to those who need it;
- Specific and complex areas of law e.g. Unlawful detention, Judicial review, or British Nationality for those already working in the migration sector;
- ‘Skills for managing your own case’ – information provision aimed to support the agency and capacity for informed decision making amongst those navigating the immigration system and managing their own cases, such as the process of applying for immigration bail or making a fee waiver application;
- Bespoke in-house training provided to other organisations, such as Citizens Advice Bureau branches.

We also provide smaller organisations with trainings on campaigning and advocacy work, and run outreach and information sessions in collaboration with other actors. For example:

- We delivered a session on climate and migration at a City of Sanctuary politics course;
- We helped draft a climate and migrant justice workshop delivered at No Borders in Climate Justice summit (Sep 2023);
- We ran a parliamentary process training for members of Kanlungan, a consortium of grassroots Filipino community organisations (Jan 2024);
- We ran workshops and stalls at community events including the [Queer Migrant Pride Festival](#) in July 2023 and the Migrant Connections Festival in September 2023.

# CLIMATE JUSTICE IS MIGRANT JUSTICE

The impacts of climate breakdown are felt disproportionately by countries in the Global South, who also contribute least to the climate crisis. Climate-induced migration means people are forced to move across borders – including to the UK – by the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. There are currently no legal guardrails for people who migrate due to climate related factors. The international system of refugee protection offers no specific protections for climate refugees, and states' national migration policies have not addressed this significant gap.

We believe that, in the face of these challenges, everyone should have the right to stay and the right to move. That means protection from the worst impacts of the climate crisis, so that people can stay in their homes and communities – but it also means being able to move across borders to seek safety and a dignified life, if life at home is no longer viable.

JCWI is embarking on an exciting new project that aims to transform how we talk and think about climate-linked migration, based on the insights of people who have already had to move because of climate breakdown. Our approach is interdisciplinary and cross-cutting, seeking to create a proposal for a global immigration system that offers routes to safety for people affected by climate breakdown.

- Lawyers are using **casework and strategic litigation** to test the current legal protections for people moving because of climate breakdown, and expand new legal remedies for people fleeing climate change.
- Our **policy team is bringing together people with lived experience of climate migration**; mapping existing policy landscapes and undertaking an international comparison of current solutions;
- Our communications team is message testing and **developing messages to change attitudes among decision-makers**, climate activists, and the general public.



To do this, we have set up a **Climate Steering Committee** to drive our climate migration work going forward, consisting of 8 people with lived experience of climate-induced migration, as well as having appointed a climate justice project officer and a climate justice lawyer as a member of our full-time staff.

We are part of the organising committee of the **Climate Justice Coalition** which brings together stakeholders across the climate and migration sectors, for discussions around policy development, messaging and framing of public campaigns. The Coalition will bring together a number of prominent organisations across the climate and migration space. At the same time, we are intentionally supporting grassroots groups to attend, and ensuring their voices are heard.

In addition to our wider training efforts, we engaged in a number of climate-focused sessions aimed to upskill the sector as a whole. These included delivering a session on climate and migration at a City of Sanctuary politics course, and helping to develop a climate and migrant justice workshop delivered at No Borders in Climate Justice summit in September 2023.

We continue to actively engage with barristers, other legal experts, and organisations across the field in pursuit of an innovative, united litigation strategy in order to better uphold the rights of those forced to leave their homes as a result of climate change.

# CROSS-BORDER FORUM

**JCWI hosts the Cross-border Forum**, a network consisting of civil society organisations and activists in Belgium, France, and the UK, which facilitates cross-border collaboration on advocacy and policy work relating to the borders.

The Forum meets regularly to share expertise, coordinate joint statements and communications, and run working groups and workshops. It aims to provide a regular and sustainable space for organisations across the three countries to collaborate on migration and asylum issues in the cross-border region. This is vital in the face of the number of tragic deaths taking place in the Channel every year. Our members range from humanitarian organisations engaged in providing direct support at the border to national and international policy and advocacy organisations.

In the last year the Cross border Forum Coordinator, based at JCWI, led the co-creation of a strategy on how the Forum can meaningfully work with people who have lived experience of the issues it works on. This will be embedded into the work the Cross Border Forum does going forward. The organisation also launched its first website during this time, expanding opportunities for outreach and engagement moving forward.



# MIGRANT CHAMPIONS NETWORK

One of the mechanisms through which we engage in policy discussions and raise awareness amongst policy-makers regarding key issues affecting migrants that we are most proud of is our Migrant Champions Network, launched in February 2023.

The network consists of local councillors around the country who have pledged to support and promote migrant rights and wellbeing regardless of immigration status.

We set up a website for the Migrant Champions Network, through which resources are published, including guidance for councillors on how to support residents who cannot afford visa application fees, signposting avenues to connect council residents to lawyers, and a detailed explainer of the immigration system to ensure that up-to-date, factual information is accessible for all councillors involved in local policy-making that affects migrants in their communities.

Through the Network we have:

- Drafted a template letter for doctors and other professionals to help them write supporting letters for newly-granted refugees trying to be granted social housing, and a guide for local councillors responding to a government consultation on discriminatory social housing restrictions Organised a joint letter opposing the Illegal Migration Bill from 271 local councillors.
- Mobilised 227 local councillors to sign a joint statement condemning the Rwanda Act and pledging to support constituents at risk of removal to Rwanda.
- Hosted an online event focusing on how councillors can resist the far right and support people in asylum accommodation in their areas. This event was shared with more than 110 people, either by attending the live event, or having signed up to receive the recording.

# OUR PARTNERSHIPS

JCWI are movement builders: fostering collaborations and supporting coordination across the sector is a big part of what we stand for. We seek to ensure that all those individuals and groups who share our vision for a future where all those who call the UK home and who have newly arrived in search of safety are treated with dignity, compassion and respect can come together and amplify each other's voices. We specifically focus on making sure that organisations of different sizes, ranging from the smallest civil society groups through to the most well-recognised international charities, have the opportunity to participate and engage in joint actions, and seek to actively involved and amplify the work and messages of lived experience groups who may have less access to traditional advocacy and media channels alone.

We are on the steering committee of the Human Rights Act Coalition, and we facilitate the Migrants Coalition which formed out of this. By bringing together organisations focusing on all aspects of human rights – ranging from disability justice and housing rights through to legal and child's rights – we're ensuring that we adopt a holistic, whole-person lens to all that we do.

We worked closely with two other organisations, Regularise and Migrants' Rights Network, to establish a **coalition of unions and migrant organisations** committed to migrant workers' rights. Following a roundtable in September 2023 we held a meeting of unions and grassroots migrant organisations in 2024, and we will be expanding this work in the coming year.

We also supported in-person resistance against the hostile environment on the streets, including speaking at demonstrations against Bibby Stockholm Barge and the arms fair, and in support of anti-raids protests and activists facing prison time for anti-deportation action.

We took part in a [World Refugee Day action](#) alongside many grassroots organisations including Praxis, Rainbow Migration Just Rights Scotland, and Women for Refugee Women, which we followed up with a powerful collective call on social media to welcome refugees. On International Workers' Day we partnered with Migrants Rights Network and Migrants at Work to stage a banner drop on Westminster Bridge which read "Migrants' Rights are Workers' Rights".

In addition to our partnership with UNISON, a major union where we run a helpline to support all those with immigration related queries, and the Cross Border Forum, we have also formed long-term partnerships and collaborations with a range of other service-providers.

We run regular outreach advice clinics with the Red Cross Destitution Centre, and at Yarl's Wood 'Immigration Removal Centre', where people are often held almost indefinitely, and in which conditions and safety for people forced to remain there are notoriously poor. We are also active members of the Windrush Justice Committee, with our legal team working to take on cases throughout the year.

# LOOKING AHEAD – OUR TEAM

Our team, and all people standing in support of migrant justice more broadly, remain the most vital part of our vision for change, going beyond any individual legal submission, media headline, or report. For our clients, too, it is individual team members who create the trust and safety necessary for a person to recount some of the most frightening experiences of their life as part of asylum processes, or who wait with our clients for hours so that they aren't alone whilst waiting for emergency accommodation following an eviction.

JCWI employ over 20 staff and have more than 600 members, all of whom play a pivotal role in the movement to make migrant justice a reality. We employ skilled, experienced, and passionate solicitors, policy and advocacy experts, communications specialists, and support workers who deliver our critical services through face-to-face services, by telephone or online in England. In doing so, we also ensure that the evidence we get from working with people translated into our campaigns. We also have a dedicated team providing the vital support functions that ensure the organisation is enabled to deliver on our strategy.

In January 2024, shortly before the end of the financial year, we were delighted to welcome Yasmin Halima as our new Executive Director. Yasmin is an award-winning activist recognised for building powerful partnerships that engage marginalised voices.



# LOOKING AHEAD – OUR ELECTION AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY IN 2024 AND BEYOND

Following the end of the financial year ended March 2024, UK elections resulted in a new government for the next four years. During the election period we were a fierce voice for migrant rights, and with a new Government in power, our advocacy team is working to leverage key relationships to bring about policy change: the government has already pulled back on the Rwanda plan, and positive movements for migrant workers' rights appear to be in prospect.

We will kick off the new financial year in April 2025 through the hosting of our event focused on power, erosion of human rights, and media accountability. In doing so, we will bring together immigration lawyers, campaigners, former clients, and activists who have themselves been through the asylum system. We will do this alongside JCWI's members, donors and supporters, seeking to strengthen bridges across the sector and engage in a 'deep dive' discussion around the reciprocal effects of hostile narratives on the policy environment and vice versa, and the ways that we can begin to dismantle and change these.



# ACCOUNTABILITY, LEARNING, AND RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES

As with all charities working in this sector, the reality is that the need for our services far outstrips capacity. As a movement, we also find ourselves having to ‘walk back’ and debate fundamental issues relating to rights and safety that should never be up for debate in the first place – such as whether it’s acceptable to house asylum seekers on floating barges, or in fire-unsafe accommodation. At the same time, we have much to be hopeful about, and seek to continue to build on our learnings, and stay accountable to those most impacted by our work in all that we do.

In addition to our lived experience advisory board, we seek at all times to be led by the wishes, priorities, needs and capabilities of our clients. We seek feedback from our clients and ensure that this is used to meaningfully improve the services we provide.

## Example

In 2023 we received feedback from callers to our IML – our telephone advice line for undocumented migrants, that people were experiencing long waiting times on the line and struggling to pay for the call. We responded by making the number freephone, so no one has to pay to call it, and by introducing a system that means no one waits longer than 20 minutes at one time.

By staying up to date with trends across the sector as a whole, we are able to remain agile, adapting our work to the needs of our community and complementing the efforts of the wider sector. For example, our climate justice project was also born out of an awareness that access to climate-related migrant justice was becoming an increasingly unmet need amongst communities of people who move. We have also worked to document key learnings and preserve institutional knowledge relating to advocacy campaigns, in particular around election strategies, in order to continue to improve our ability to drive impact in this area.

It is important that we also have a framework for measuring our success and this year and next we will continue to strengthen our performance reporting. The SLT team and Board receives regular reports on progress against the strategy, the delivery of strategic plans, and the success of activities and programmes.

If you have any ideas, feedback or suggestions for our work, or are interested in becoming a member to further engage with and shape our work, please don’t hesitate to contact us at [membership@jcwi.org.uk](mailto:membership@jcwi.org.uk)

# HOW WE WORK

## OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JCWI Board of Trustees are also the company directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, and have overall responsibility for the strategy, direction, management and control of the charity.

The Board consists of 9 members who give their time on a voluntary basis, receiving no remuneration or other benefits. Out-of-pocket expenses, along with any other costs incurred by trustees in the furtherance of their duties, may be repaid by the charity in line with the Trustee Expenses Policies. All members of the board sign a Trustee Code of Conduct. All the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of winding up. The Board has the power to appoint additional Directors. The Board met formally six times during 2023/24, in addition to regular subcommittee meetings (governance, fundraising & finance, people & culture).

Our trustees are recruited using open recruitment processes. Vacant positions are advertised and promoted externally through relevant networks. The composition of the Board must be approved by the Members at the Annual General Meeting. The Trustees maintain a good working knowledge of charity and company law and best practice, and are typically elected for a term of three years, with the possibility of increasing this to two 3-year terms. New trustees are provided with copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and copies of relevant strategies and policies are introduced to the activities of the charity by the existing Trustees. Training is made available as and when required. In 2024 we are developing a formal trustee induction programme to strengthen our onboarding of new team members. We place our emphasis on having the appropriate balance of skills and experience on our Board, as well as working towards a Board that fully represents the audiences we were established to work in support of.

# HOW WE WORK

## OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

During the year in question, our board was comprised of relatively new trustees, working alongside an interim executive director for the majority of the financial year. Together we have worked with staff and unions, to launch and implement our 23-24 strategy, alongside embarking on a governance review to collaboratively refresh our policies and ensure they are fit for purpose for JCWI's current and future ways of working.

In the coming financial year, our trustees will continue to work alongside the team to prioritise organisational resilience within what is becoming an increasingly challenging funding and operational landscape for charities in the UK, including in particular legal aid charities. A key part of this will be our People Plan to ensure we put our team at the centre of all that we do. So too we will refresh our membership strategy to ensure that our members are receiving the best from JCWI and we are cultivating a strong movement for the sector.

### **Income Generation and Fundraising**

This year and next we will focus on strengthening our income generation and fundraising functions. We will start by developing a robust ethical strategy for both, including a donation refusal policy that adheres to the updated Charity Commission Guidance. We recognise that severe challenges for legal aid charities going forward given the chronic underfunding of the sector and the state violence that underpins migration policy at the moment. In 2024- 2025 will explore innovative ways to generate income including diversifying funding streams and new models of partnerships.

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Company Number: 02700424

Country of Registration: England and Wales

Country of Incorporation: United Kingdom

Charity Number: 1117513 Directors and Trustees:

## Executive Committee in alphabetical order

Alexa Netty	Trustee and Safeguarding Lead, appointed Feb, 2023
Annie Bidwell	Trustee, appointed Feb, 2023
David James	Treasurer and Chair of Finance and Fundraising Sub-Committee
Hannah Wickes	Trustee, appointed Feb, 2023
Jun Pang	Trustee, appointed Feb, 2023
Louisa Baxter	Chair and Chair of Governance Committee, Chair as of December, 2023
Minoo Jalali-Naini	Resigned April, 2024
Rebecca Baron	Trustee, appointed Feb, 2023
Savan Yassin Qadir	Resigned April, 2024
Shveta Shah	Trustee and Chair of People and Culture Sub-Committee, appointed Feb, 2023
Simon Israel	Trustee, appointed Feb, 2023

Biographies of the Senior Leadership Team and current trustees are available on the website.

Company Secretary: Yasmin Halima - appointed January, 2024

## Senior Leadership Team:

Yasmin Halima, Executive Director – appointed January, 2024

Ravishaan Rahel Muthiah, Communications Director

Enny Choudhury and Laura Smith, Co-Legal Directors

Aria Danaparamita, Advocacy Director – appointed June, 2023

Registered office and principal address: 441 Caledonian Road Unit 4a Cally Yard, London, England, N7 9BG  
Auditors: Sayer Vincent LLP, 110 Golden Lane, London, EC1Y 0TG Bankers: NatWest Bank Plc., 134 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4JB

# PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Acknowledging, understanding and embracing risks and shifting political and socio-economic landscapes is an inherent part of what JCWI stands for. To do otherwise would not enable us to deliver our strategic aims and support our clients within a complex and evolving landscape.

JCWI has a well-developed risk framework designed to support the organisation's leadership to manage, rather than eliminate risk, and to support informed decision-making. The framework supports colleagues to take a consistent approach to identifying and managing risk, ultimately ensuring risk is managed within the Board's agreed appetite and tolerance.

Our approach recognises five primary risk types (operational, financial regulatory compliance, governance and external) and we consider all risk against the risk to the organisation, its people and the delivery of our strategic aims. Each sub-committee reviews the risk register at every meeting and approves the annual risk register which includes reviews of areas of significant risks.

JCWI trustees determine how much risk the charity is willing to take in the pursuit of its objectives (its risk appetite) as well as changes requiring the charity to operate an appropriate risk management framework. Risk management is a key responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team.

Our principal risks are shown in the following table. This is a summary of the more detailed risk register entries including mitigations.

# PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Risk Category	Key themes	Mitigations and measures taken
<b>Operational</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor planning, management and leadership leads to organisational drift, inefficiency and failure to deliver on our targets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SLT, management and Board leadership and management training scheme undertaken this year. Annual reviews of progress against strategy and new organisational KPIs developed.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal and external financial pressures result in a greater level of financial risk to the organisation. These factors include uncertainty in fundraised income.</li> <li>The organisation no longer has reserves that meet its reserves policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We continue to plan on a multi-year basis and will periodically put in place such change programmes as are necessary to manage our cost base within predicted revenue.</li> <li>We will seek to diversify income and fundraising streams and growing our membership base.</li> <li>We will continue to strengthen our internal financial controls.</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current governance protocols, documents and committee arrangements are outdated and do not meet the current and future development needs of the organisation.</li> <li>Diverging organisational objectives between trustees and staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EC and SLT have reviewed the governing documents and refreshed articles of association.</li> <li>Attendance by SLT at board meetings; undertake an annual organisation-wide review of priorities and progress.</li> </ul>
<b>Regulatory &amp; Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adverse changes in regulatory environment affect our activities or are designed to contribute to shrinking civil society space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly reporting, annual external audit ensure we have complete information when considering regulatory changes or complying with existing regulations; Membership of NCVO, good working relationships with Charity Commission &amp; Electoral Commission and close monitoring of legislation keeps us up to date on proposed changes; Maintaining sufficient financial reserves so that, in the event of significant regulatory change, we are able to continue operating and invest in re-tooling.</li> </ul>
<b>External</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The risk that JCWI is seen by the public as irrelevant.</li> <li>The risk of ongoing cuts to legal aid and an increasing hostile environment for migrants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JCWI's brand is strong, and we will continue to invest work in growing this.</li> <li>Through its role as a movement builder, JCWI's thought leadership role will be solidified.</li> </ul>

# SAFEGUARDING

JCWI recognises that safeguarding is everyone's business. We're committed to ensuring every person we encounter through our work and everyone in JCWI is aware of their responsibilities and is equipped to support our safeguarding practices.

Our safeguarding policy and associated procedures take into account the lived reality of the people that we support. Many of the people that we work with at JCWI face intersecting forms of oppression that may place people at greater risk of harm. This will not always mean that an individual is an 'adult at risk' as per adult safeguarding legislation, but JCWI recognise additional risk factors that will be addressed as part of our safeguarding culture and approach. Specifically, we recognise that people who are forcibly displaced, have insecure legal status, or have sought safety from persecution may face additional systemic barriers and power dynamics which can create the conditions for safeguarding concerns to arise. We seek at all times to be mindful of the positionality and context within which we operate and adopt safeguarding policies and procedures through this lens.

Our safeguarding policy aims to equip everyone associated with JCWI with the knowledge of what safeguarding means to our organisation and how to identify and raise a safeguarding concern. JCWI is committed to the 'three R's' of safeguarding; Recognise, Respond and Report. JCWI also strives to work preventatively to try and pre-empt and mitigate risk wherever possible to do so.

As such, this year we've invested in improving the governance framework that supports our safeguarding practice. This year we have started a programme of work over 2023/24 which has focused on improved policies, procedures, training and reporting across the organisation. Our safeguarding framework includes trustee sponsorship and involvement in the organisation's safeguarding reporting and review process. It also includes quarterly and annual reports to the Board to provide assurance that our framework and practice are helping us to maintain our commitment.

## **Data privacy and security**

Data protection and security is a key part of our safeguarding structure. We take significant steps to uphold the privacy of personal information of our donors, supporters, clients and staff. We process data ethically and responsibly and are always open and honest about why we collect, use and store personal data.



# OUR FINANCES

During the year the Charity had income of £1,281,555 (2023 – £1,332,157) and a deficit for the year ended of £133,500 (2023 – surplus £75,347). As at the year-end the accounts showed funds of £627,724 (2023 – £761,224), of which £247,974 (2023 – £82,252) was restricted. The reserves held in unrestricted funds, which have not been designated or invested in fixed assets, on 31st March 2024 were £342,658 (2023 – £638,009).

Income **£1,281,555**

Reserves **£342,658**

## Going Concern

To address the issue of Going Concern, JCWI has prepared a Forecast for the remainder of the current year and a Projection for 2025-26, broken out between months to check for any troughs of liquidity. The Projection was prepared on a conservative basis on which only income from grants from existing providers was included, so does not reflect the priority that JCWI is giving to income generation in its current update of strategy. Even on this basis the lowest projected cash balance at a month end was £207,000, which is more than sufficient to cover a month's outgoings.

Our remuneration policy and fundraising policy are being refreshed this year to take into account Charity Commission Guidance.

Based on this Forecast and Projection and the assumptions on which they are based, the trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

# RESERVES

JCWI's reserves are maintained in line with Charity Commission guidance to mitigate against and manage risks to the organisation, as well as to invest in new opportunities. When we consider our reserves level, our analysis considers both JCWI's internal and external circumstances, as well as our activities and principal risks. The aim is to ensure a level of reserves adequate for JCWI to survive economic shocks without compromising on our strategic aims.

The minimum reserves level approved by the Board is that both the measures of cash and unrestricted reserves less restricted reserves (less WIP) should be equal to between three and six months of budgeted expenses. The Directors believe that through maintaining reserves at this level, JCWI will be able to maintain financial sustainability and the means to meet its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future. The Directors review the level of required reserves on an annual basis.



# STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO AUDITOR

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware. Additionally, the trustees have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

## **Auditors**

A resolution will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting that Sayer Vincent LLP be re-appointed as auditors of the Charity for the ensuing year.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

## **Approval**

This report was approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



David James

Trustee

8 November, 2024

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

## Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants' ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

## Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

## Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.



# AUDITOR'S REPORT

## Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
  - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
  - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

## Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sayer Vincent LLP".

Noelia Serrano (Senior statutory auditor)

12 November 2024

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor

110 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TG

**Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants**

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)**

**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

		2024			2023		
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Grants and donations	2	484,319	92,500	576,819	737,435	40,000	777,435
Charitable activities	3	249,236	455,500	704,736	301,328	253,394	554,722
<b>Total income</b>		<b>733,555</b>	<b>548,000</b>	<b>1,281,555</b>	<b>1,038,763</b>	<b>293,394</b>	<b>1,332,157</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities							
Case work & legal helplines	4a	544,743	120,442	665,185	368,667	215,993	584,659
Advocacy	4a	119,983	179,172	299,155	131,598	119,602	251,200
Communication & training	4a	355,625	95,089	450,714	382,569	38,381	420,950
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,020,352</b>	<b>394,703</b>	<b>1,415,055</b>	<b>882,834</b>	<b>373,976</b>	<b>1,256,810</b>
<b>Net (expenditure) / income for the year</b>		<b>(286,797)</b>	<b>153,297</b>	<b>(133,500)</b>	<b>155,929</b>	<b>(80,582)</b>	<b>75,347</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>(12,425)</b>	<b>12,425</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(42,881)</b>	<b>42,881</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(299,222)</b>	<b>165,722</b>	<b>(133,500)</b>	<b>113,048</b>	<b>(37,701)</b>	<b>75,347</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds brought forward		678,972	82,252	761,224	565,924	119,953	685,877
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>379,750</b>	<b>247,974</b>	<b>627,724</b>	<b>678,972</b>	<b>82,252</b>	<b>761,224</b>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 19a to the financial statements.

# Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

## Balance sheet

Company no. 02700424

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>					
Tangible assets	10		1,151		-
			<u>1,151</u>		<u>-</u>
<b>Current assets:</b>					
Unbilled Fees and Recoverable Disbursements	11	295,925		523,000	
Debtors	12	48,656		130,587	
Cash at bank and in hand		516,620		304,206	
			<u>861,201</u>	<u>957,793</u>	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(234,628)		(196,569)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>626,573</u>		<u>761,224</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>627,724</u>		<u>761,224</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u>627,724</u>		<u>761,224</u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>	17a				
Restricted income funds			247,974		82,252
Unrestricted income funds:					
Designated funds		37,090		40,963	
General funds		342,658		638,009	
			<u>379,750</u>		<u>678,972</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>			<u>379,750</u>		<u>678,972</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u>627,724</u>		<u>761,224</u>

Approved by the trustees on 08 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by



David James FCA  
Trustee

## Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

### Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Net (expenditure) / income for the year</b>		<b>(133,500)</b>		<b>75,347</b>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>				
Depreciation	184		8,386	
Decrease / (increase) in WIP & Recoverable Disbursements	227,075		(33,217)	
Decrease in debtors	81,931		43,027	
Increase in creditors	38,058		66,480	
		<b>347,248</b>		<b>84,676</b>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<b>213,748</b>		<b>160,023</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>				
Purchase of fixed assets	(1,334)		-	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(1,334)</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>212,414</b>		<b>160,023</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>304,206</b>		<b>144,183</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		<b>516,620</b>		<b>304,206</b>

### Analysis of cash and cash equivalents and of net debt

	At 1 April 2023	Cash flows	Other non- cash changes	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	304,206	212,414	-	516,620
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>304,206</b>	<b>212,414</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>516,620</b>

**1 Accounting policies**

**a) Statutory information**

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in the United Kingdom.

The registered office address and principal place of business is 441 Caledonian Road, Unit 4a Cally Yard, London, N7 9BG.

**b) Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

**c) Public benefit entity**

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

**d) Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. In arriving at this decision, the trustees have considered in detail the latest forecast for 2024–25 and the latest projection for 2025–26 and particularly their associated cash flows

**e) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of delivering services and educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an overhead cost.

**Legal Fees**

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned as the related services are provided in the form of legal fees.

**Training Income**

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned as the related services are provided in the form of training fees.

**Membership Fees**

Membership fees credited to income on the earlier date of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period, in which case they are deferred.

**Donation Income**

Donations are recognised in the period in which they are received.

**Contract Income**

Contract income is recognised over the period of the contract.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) Grants payable

Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and that any condition attaching to the grant is outside of the control of the charity.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

j) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include general management, finance and administration personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. Support costs have been apportioned separately between the charity's key activities on the basis of staff time allocated to each activity.

● Casework & Legal Helplines	27%
● Advocacy	9%
● Communications & Training	37%
● Governance costs	27%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

k) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease; there were no operating leases during the year

l) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

● Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% reducing balance
● Computer & IT equipment	33% on cost

Having reached the end of their useful life, there is a plan, subject to funding, to replace these assets in 2024-25; as a result the small remaining net book value has also been written off.



Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

m) Unbilled fees

Unbilled fees at 31st March 2024 consists of the net realisable value of legal casework completed but not billed as well as casework still in progress and is valued at its estimated net realisable value after making provision, where necessary, for any risk of full recovery.

n) Debtors

Trade debtors, prepayments and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

o) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of clients (client money).

p) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

q) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

r) Pensions

Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are payable. The assets of the defined contribution schemes are held separately from those of the company in independently administered funds.

2 Income from grants and donations

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
A B Charitable Trust	48,542	-	48,542	50,000	-	50,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	-	-	-	65,000	-	65,000
Great London Authority Staff	-	-	-	200	-	200
Immigrants' Aid Trust	-	92,500	92,500	30,000	-	30,000
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	48,850	-	48,850	91,900	-	91,900
Oak Foundation	150,000	-	150,000	150,000	-	150,000
Prism	55,000	-	55,000	5,000	-	5,000
Unbound Philanthropy	-	-	-	90,000	-	90,000
Donations including Gift Aid	181,927	-	181,927	245,335	40,000	285,335
	<b>484,319</b>	<b>92,500</b>	<b>576,819</b>	<b>727,435</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>767,435</b>

3 Income from charitable activities

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
<b>Legal casework and helplines</b>						
<b>Grants:</b>						
Asylum Aid	-	-	-	-	5,654	5,654
Frontline Network	-	-	-	-	120	120
Legal Education Foundation	-	-	-	-	45,084	45,084
Oak Foundation	-	-	-	-	10,980	10,980
Trust for London	-	92,625	92,625	-	62,500	62,500
<b>Contract income:</b>						
UNISON – Advice line for members	33,290	-	33,290	26,562	-	26,562
Legal aid, certificated and other casework fees	78,892	-	78,892	222,995	-	222,995
<b>Legal casework and helplines: Total Income</b>	<b>112,182</b>	<b>92,625</b>	<b>204,807</b>	<b>249,557</b>	<b>124,338</b>	<b>373,894</b>
<b>Training</b>						
Training and Course fees	23,862	-	23,862	14,979	-	14,979
<b>Training: Total Income</b>	<b>23,862</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,862</b>	<b>14,979</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,979</b>
<b>Advocacy</b>						
<b>Grants:</b>						
Barrow Cadbury	-	15,000	15,000	-	29,000	29,000
European Programme for Integration and Migration	-	29,745	29,745	-	26,915	26,915
Paul Hamlyn	-	50,000	50,000	-	-	-
Open Society Foundation	-	58,351	58,351	-	44,485	44,485
<b>Cross Border Forum: Total Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>153,095</b>	<b>153,095</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100,400</b>	<b>100,400</b>
Exeter University	-	11,913	11,913	-	5,156	5,156
Economic and Social Research Council	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Landworkers Alliance	-	-	-	-	3,500	3,500
Polden Puckham – Climate Justice	-	109,964	109,964	-	-	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	75,000	-	75,000	-	-	-
<b>Advocacy: Total Income</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>274,972</b>	<b>349,972</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>114,056</b>	<b>114,056</b>
<b>Communication and engagement</b>						
<b>Grants and donations:</b>						
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	30,000	30,000	-	15,000	15,000
Birmingham/EC/Innovate/UKRI	-	1,858	1,858	-	-	-
Disrupt Foundation: Covid Inquiry	-	3,750	3,750	-	-	-
Disrupt Foundation: New Website	-	28,944	28,944	-	-	-
Homelessness Appeal	-	13,351	13,351	-	-	-
Newby Trust Ltd	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Membership subscriptions	35,524	-	35,524	34,722	-	34,722
Publications & Merchandise	2,668	-	2,668	2,070	-	2,070
<b>Communication and engagement: Total Income</b>	<b>38,192</b>	<b>87,903</b>	<b>126,095</b>	<b>36,792</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>51,792</b>
<b>Total income from charitable activities</b>	<b>249,236</b>	<b>455,500</b>	<b>704,736</b>	<b>301,328</b>	<b>253,394</b>	<b>554,721</b>

4a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities					2024 Total £	2023 Total £
	Case work & legal helplines £	Advocacy £	Communication & Training £	Governance £	Support £		
Accountancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,555
Audit fees	-	-	-	21,700	-	21,700	21,025
Communications and IT	514	3,840	29,608	-	4,775	38,737	17,120
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	184	184	8,386
Legal casework costs	38,972	-	-	-	1,583	40,555	(5,238)
Other direct costs	28,573	28,746	782	-	32,161	90,263	153,609
Other office costs	12,715	14,625	7,582	89	83,914	118,925	22,082
Premises and equipment	-	-	-	-	99,461	99,461	48,178
Staff costs (Note 6)	399,788	189,535	161,350	-	242,156	992,830	941,921
Training	479	25	104	-	11,792	12,400	12,173
	<b>481,042</b>	<b>236,772</b>	<b>199,426</b>	<b>21,789</b>	<b>476,026</b>	<b>1,415,055</b>	<b>1,256,810</b>
Support costs	<b>128,527</b>	<b>42,842</b>	<b>176,130</b>	<b>128,527</b>	<b>(476,026)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Governance costs	<b>55,617</b>	<b>19,541</b>	<b>75,158</b>	<b>(150,316)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total expenditure 2024</b>	<b>665,185</b>	<b>299,155</b>	<b>450,714</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,415,055</b>	
<b>Total expenditure 2023</b>	<b>584,659</b>	<b>251,200</b>	<b>420,950</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>1,256,810</b>

4b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities			Governance	Support	2023 Total £
	Case work & legal helplines £	Advocacy £	Communication & Training £			
Accountancy	30	-	1,148	-	36,377	37,555
Audit fees	-	-	-	-	21,025	21,025
Communications and IT	1,264	120	7,334	-	8,402	17,120
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	8,386	8,386
Legal casework costs	(5,238)	-	-	-	-	(5,238)
Other direct costs	45,202	45,659	15,042	-	47,705	153,609
Other office costs	974	2,244	349	1,019	17,495	22,082
Premises and equipment	-	-	-	-	48,178	48,178
Staff costs (Note 8)	372,927	145,847	153,502	-	269,645	941,921
Training	-	-	12,173	-	-	12,173
	415,159	193,870	189,549	1,019	457,213	1,256,810
Support costs	123,447	41,149	169,169	123,447	(457,213)	-
Governance costs	46,053	16,181	62,233	(124,467)	-	-
<b>Total expenditure 2023</b>	<b>584,659</b>	<b>251,200</b>	<b>420,950</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,256,810</b>

5 Net (expenditure) / income for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	184	8,386
Auditor's remuneration (net of VAT)		
Audit	16,000	13,000
Audit – prior year under-accrual	5,700	8,025
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

6 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	872,573	829,585
Social security costs	86,024	84,500
Pension costs	34,233	27,837
	<u>992,830</u>	<u>941,921</u>

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer's national insurance) during the year between:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
£60,000 – £69,999	-	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

The Senior Leadership Team comprise the Executive Director, Legal Director, Advocacy Director and Communications Director. The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer's national insurance) of the key management personnel were £310,388 (2023: £336,977).

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2024: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

Trustee expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024: £73 (2023: £1,069).

7 Staff numbers

The average number of staff employed during the year was 21.3 (2023: 20.2).

Staff are split across the activities of the charity as follows (full time equivalent basis):

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Case work and legal help lines	9.5	9.1
Advocacy	4.0	2.7
Communications & Training	4.4	3.9
Governance	0.2	0.2
Support	3.2	4.3
	<b>21.3</b>	<b>20.2</b>

8 Related party transactions

JCWI and The Immigrants' Aid Trust ("IAT") are related parties as some trustees are common to both. At the year-end IAT owed JCWI £0 (2023 £785). The following transactions took place during the year between JCWI and IAT:

- JCWI rents premises owned by IAT at 441 Caledonian Rd, London, for which annual rent of £100,000 (2022-23 £30,000) is payable.
- JCWI receives a Grant of £100,000 (2023 £30,000 ) for rent from IAT.
- There was no charge from JCWI to IAT in 2023-24 for either relocation and premises costs (2022-23 £nil) or for administration expenses (2022-23 £nil)

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer & IT Equipment £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At the start of the year	35,521	3,397	<b>38,918</b>
Additions in year	1,335	-	<b>1,335</b>
At the end of the year	<b>36,856</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>40,253</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At the start of the year	35,521	3,397	<b>38,918</b>
Charge for the year	184	-	<b>184</b>
At the end of the year	<b>35,705</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>39,102</b>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At the end of the year	<b>1,151</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,151</b>
At the start of the year	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

11 Unbilled Legal Fees

	2024	2023
	£	£
Legal Fees – Unbilled and Work-in-Progress	192,087	367,000
Recoverable Disbursements	103,838	156,000
	<u>295,925</u>	<u>523,000</u>

12 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	35,845	79,124
Prepayments and other debtors	9,706	9,307
Accrued income	3,105	42,155
	<u>48,656</u>	<u>130,587</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	85,649	56,733
Taxation and social security	33,193	39,900
Other creditors	9,896	4,423
Accruals	83,428	71,650
Deferred income (note 16)	22,463	23,863
	<u>234,628</u>	<u>196,569</u>

14 Deferred income

The deferred income includes contract income of £22,463 received from UNISON in advance for helpline work to be carried out in 2024 (2023: £23,863).

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	23,863	14,875
Amount released to income in the year	(23,863)	25,351
Amount deferred in the year	22,463	(16,363)
Balance at the end of the year	<u>22,463</u>	<u>23,863</u>

15 Pension scheme

The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £34,233 (2023: £27,837). The charity had accrued pension contributions of £nil (2023: £Nil).

16a Analysis of net assets between funds (current year)

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	1,151	-	-	1,151
Net current assets	341,509	37,090	247,974	626,573
<b>Net assets at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>342,660</b>	<b>37,090</b>	<b>247,974</b>	<b>627,724</b>

16b Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year – restated)

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net current assets	638,009	40,963	82,252	761,224
<b>Net assets at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>638,009</b>	<b>40,963</b>	<b>82,252</b>	<b>761,224</b>



17a Movements in funds (current year)

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income & gains £	Expenditure & losses £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
<b>Grants and Donations</b>					
Immigrants Aid Trust		92,500	(100,000)	7,500	-
<b>Case work and legal helplines:</b>					
Oak Foundation	9,211	-	(5,800)	769	4,180
Trust for London	-	92,625	(77,642)	7,500	22,483
<b>Advocacy:</b>					
Barrow Cadbury (Cross Border Forum)	20,154	15,000	(21,720)	-	13,434
EPIM (Cross Border Forum)	4,257	29,745	(24,273)	-	9,729
Paul Hamlyn (Cross Border Forum)		50,000	(828)		49,172
OSF (Cross Border Forum)	37,631	58,351	(54,857)	-	41,125
Economic and Social Research Council (ESCR)	5,000	-	-	(5,000)	-
Exeter University	-	11,913	(17,069)	5,156	-
Greater London Authority	6,000	-	-	(6,000)	-
Polden Puckham – Climate Justice Homelessness Appeal	-	109,964	(34,074)		75,890
		13,351	(13,351)	-	-
<b>Communication:</b>					
Birmingham/EC/Innovate/UKRI		1,858	(2,301)		(443)
Disrupt Foundation: Covid Inquiry		3,750			3,750
Disrupt Foundation: New Website		28,944	(12,788)		16,156
Newby Trust Ltd		10,000			10,000
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	30,000	(30,000)	2,500	2,500
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>82,252</b>	<b>548,000</b>	<b>(394,703)</b>	<b>12,425</b>	<b>247,974</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>Designated funds:</b>					
Migrant Defence fund	40,963	-	(3,873)	-	37,090
<b>General funds</b>	<b>638,008</b>	<b>733,555</b>	<b>(1,016,479)</b>	<b>(12,425)</b>	<b>342,658</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>678,971</b>	<b>733,555</b>	<b>(1,020,352)</b>	<b>(12,425)</b>	<b>379,750</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>761,223</b>	<b>1,281,555</b>	<b>(1,415,054)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>627,724</b>

The narrative to explain the purpose of each fund is given below.

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

17b Movements in funds (prior year restated)

	At 1 April 2022	Income & gains	Expenditure & losses	Transfers	At 1 April 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
<b>Case work and legal helplines:</b>					
Asylum Aid	-	5,654	(9,306)	3,652	-
Frontline Network	-	120	(440)	320	-
Heinz, Anna and Carol Kroch	509	-	(1,143)	634	-
Legal Education Foundation	-	45,084	(45,098)	14	-
Matrix Chambers Ltd	1,204	-	(1,566)	362	-
Methodist Church	390	-	(737)	347	-
Oak foundation	-	10,980	(1,769)	-	9,211
Trust for London	5,341	62,500	(70,300)	2,459	-
Donations- Wndrush Justice Fund	31,956	-	(40,990)	9,034	-
Donations - Helpline for Undocumented Migrants	-	40,000	(44,643)	4,643	-
<b>Advocacy:</b>					
Barrow Cadbury (Cross Border EPIM (Cross Border Forum)	-	29,000	(8,846)	-	20,154
OSF (Cross Border Forum)	-	26,915	(22,658)	-	4,257
Disrupt Foundation/Prism	-	44,485	(6,854)	-	37,631
Economic and Social Research Council (ESCR)	1,505	-	-	(1,505)	-
Exeter University	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Greater London Authority	-	5,156	(6,584)	1,428	-
Landworkers Alliance	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Migration Foundation	-	3,500	(3,894)	394	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	-	-	-	-
Refugee Action	47,512	-	(48,618)	1,106	-
Sigrid Rausing Trust	932	-	(3,468)	2,536	-
Donations - Hostile digital environment	18,197	-	(18,680)	483	-
Donations - EEA Citizens Rights Litigation	2,201	-	-	(2,201)	-
Donations - Monitoring of EU Settlement Scheme	1,403	-	-	(1,403)	-
Communication:					
Barrow Cadbury Trust	1,405	-	-	(1,405)	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	1,398	15,000	(38,381)	21,983	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>119,953</b>	<b>293,394</b>	<b>(373,976)</b>	<b>42,881</b>	<b>82,253</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>Designated funds:</b>					
Migrant Defence fund	42,441	-	(1,478)	-	40,963
<b>General funds</b>	<b>523,483</b>	<b>1,038,763</b>	<b>(881,356)</b>	<b>(42,881)</b>	<b>638,009</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>565,924</b>	<b>1,038,763</b>	<b>(882,834)</b>	<b>(42,881)</b>	<b>678,972</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>685,877</b>	<b>1,332,158</b>	<b>(1,256,810)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>761,225</b>

17 Movements in funds (continued)

Description, nature and purpose of restricted grants:

Legal casework and helplines:

**Asylum Aid**

Funded a legal secondee from JCWI to work at Asylum Aid as a trainee solicitor for a period of up to four months starting on 25 July 2022.

**Frontline Network**

Grant to help people at risk of, or currently experiencing homelessness through providing crisis grants to prevent eviction or help access accommodation

**Heinz, Anna and Carol Kroch Foundation**

Grant to help people on low incomes or who may have medical needs, be victims of domestic violence or are homeless.

**Legal Education Foundation**

Funding a Justice First Fellowship for a trainee to help asylum seekers separated across Europe with family reunion applications. This was particularly important for the trainee's work with unaccompanied minors arriving in the UK.

**Matrix Chambers**

Funding for an Access to Justice project researching and producing a guide for migrants in the UK and those supporting them on instructing and interacting with lawyers.

**Methodist Church**

Hardship funding to help people on very low incomes.

**Oak Foundation**

Support for JCWI to manage ensure it has in place trained staff, robust processes and procedures to generate, manage and project income from legal aid, manage cashflow and ensure adequate income under its legal aid contract to cover its costs in undertaking its legal work

**Trust for London**

Funding provided for the provision of a free, anonymous advice helpline (the IML) and the development of our understanding of irregularity and associated issues through this work.

**Windrush Justice Fund**

Contributions to the 'Windrush Justice Fund' are distributed through an open grants programme to smaller, community-based organisations working directly with the Windrush Generation and their descendants.

Advocacy:

**Barrow Cadbury**

To support the work of the Cross-border Forum facilitating the exchange of information and expertise; enabling a shared analysis of cross-border policies and their impact, and providing space for joint advocacy and action-oriented research.

**European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM)**

Funding for the Cross-border Forum, a project bringing together organisations concerned with the UK-France-Belgium border to exchange information and expertise to construct a shared analysis of cross-border policies and their impact in order to join forces on advocacy and policy work

**Open Society Foundation (OSF)**

Funding for the Cross-border Forum, to facilitate collaboration between British, French and Belgian organisations on advocacy and policy work

**Exeter University**

Funding a project on Migrant Workers in the Care Sector, in partnership with Kanlungan, FLEX, SEEAC and an academic team from Exeter

17 Movements in funds (continued)

**Greater London Authority**

Funding provided for distribution through the Windrush Justice Fund programme to other, smaller organisations working with the Windrush Generation and their descendants. JCWI does not accept funding from central or devolved government and is therefore prohibited from using these funds internally.

**Landworkers Alliance**

A collaboration between the New Economics Foundation, Focus on Labour Exploitation, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, and Sustain, led by the Landworkers' Alliance, investigating the causes of exploitative conditions for UK migrant agricultural workers in the conventional sector for a published report.

**Migration Foundation**

Funding provided for supporting the volunteer-led group UKCEN in the provision of advice and support to European Nationals seeking citizenship and Settled status.

**Polden Puckham**

Grant to address the ways that climate change and human migration are interlinked and find and promote practical changes to national and global systems of migration that respond to the realities of life for communities affected by climate breakdown.

**New Philanthropy**

Evidence-led advocacy and campaigning work to improve outcomes under the European Settlement Scheme.

**Paul Hamlyn Foundation**

Funding provided for our work to radically transform the UK's immigration system through legal advice and representation, strategic litigation, building capacity for direct resistance, creating resources for community organising, creating a movement of collective action, and driving through long-term political change

**Prism**

Grant to support Remember and Resist to fund a public education campaign about the experiences and inequalities facing East and South East Asian communities.

**Refugee Action**

Funding provided for coordinating public affairs and advocacy work across refugee- and migration-oriented priority issues.

**Sigrid Rausing Trust**

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**Trust for London**

Running the Irregular Migrants' Helpline and engaging in evidence-based policy advocacy with and on behalf of people with insecure immigration status.

**Unbound Philanthropy**

Funding received towards work to support European Economic Area (EEA) migrants by ensuring a fair and just immigration system is put in place based on a framework of principles and in addition to shift the current Family Migration Rules to more favourable terms for non-EEA migrants, thereby ensuring that future Rules for EEA migrants and their family members are fair and equitable.

**Communication:**

**Barrow Cadbury Trust**

Strategic communications work.

**Paul Hamlyn Foundation**

Funding provided for public affairs, advocacy and engagement work.

**Birmingham/EC/Innovate/UKRI**

Grant to work with the University of Birmingham on their research into the ways that someone can lose their immigration status and to produce policy responses to prevent and support people for whom this is a risk or a reality

**17 Movements in funds (continued)**

**Disrupt Foundation: Covid Inquiry**

Grant to a partnership of organisations including the Public Interest Law Centre, Doctors of the World, Bail for Immigration Detainees and Kanlungan to respond to the Government's Covid-19 enquiry specifically on the ways in which it has impacted migrants.

**Disrupt Foundation: New Website**

Grant to pay for a website developer Fat Beehive to develop a new website for JCWI that enables us to reach more people and better showcase our work

**Newby Trust**

Grant to cover part of the salary and costs of a support worker for the legal team, to provide practical and emotional support to clients receiving legal representation from the lawyers.

**Description, nature and purpose of unrestricted funds:**

**General funds**

General fund represents funds available to spend at the discretion of the Trustees.

**Migrant Defence Fund**

Funding designated by the JCWI board to support the provision of unfunded legal advice and support.

**17c Transfers out of restricted funds**

**Immigrants Aid Trust**

£7,500 has been transferred in to reverse the accrued income of £7,500 last year. This realigns the grant to £100,000 income per year and £100,000 expenditure per year

**Oak Foundation**

£769 has been transferred in to increase the opening balance to £9,980

**Trust for London**

£7500 has been transferred in to increase our restricted balance to £22,483 as at 31/03/2024

**Economic and Social Research Council (ESCR)**

£5,000 has been transferred out to adjust our restricted balance held. The £5,000 will be received next year in year 3 of the grant

**Exeter University**

£5,156 has been transferred in to adjust our opening restricted balance held as at 01/04/2023

**Greater London Authority**

£6,000 has been transferred out to reduce our restricted balance to £0

**Barrow Cadbury Trust**

£2,500 has been transferred in to increase our restricted balance held to £2,500 and align grant expenditure with the grant terms

**18 Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.



**JOINT COUNCIL FOR  
THE WELFARE OF  
IMMIGRANTS**

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