

Registered number: 3902118
Charity number: 1079042

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

Trustees Dave Garratt, Chair
 James Osborne, Treasurer
 Shrouk El-Attar
 Catherine Sweeney
 Edward Arnold
 Lauren Darwent
 Natasha Murphy (appointed 23rd November 2019)
 Billie Dibb (appointed 23rd November 2019)
 Maryam Taher (appointed 11th February 2020)
 Rebecca Armstrong (resigned 23rd November 2019)
 Marie-France Temahagali (resigned 23rd November 2019)
 John Akker (resigned 23rd November 2019)
 Beryl Randall (resigned 23rd November 2019)

Company registered No 3902118

Charity registered No: 1079042

Registered office 356 Holloway Road
 London N7 6PA

Chief Executive Emily Crowley

Independent Examiner Kevin Fisher FCA
 Myrus Smith
 Norman House,
 8 Burnell Road,
 Sutton, Surrey
 SM1 4BW

Bankers The Co-operative Bank PLC
 PO Box 101
 1 Balloon Street
 Manchester
 M60 4EP

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

The Board of Trustees submit their annual report and the financial statements of STAR (Student Action for Refugees) for the year ended 30 June 2020.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

STAR was established in 1994 by students at Nottingham University and registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in January 2000. It was established under a Memorandum of Association, which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by the Articles of Association. The Charity's objects are:

- To relieve sickness, hardship, poverty and distress particularly by the provision of a trained student network of volunteers and helpers to assist in all aspects of refugee assistance
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and the role of students.

Organisational structure

STAR is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, the Trustees of the charity are also directors of the limited company. STAR is a membership organisation with the STAR groups as its members. STAR groups are student union societies which are constituted within their university's or college's student union and then affiliated to the STAR national charity. STAR members are trained and supported by the staff team from the charity's offices in London.

STAR's student members meet annually at the AGM in November at which they elect Trustees, view the Annual Accounts and plan STAR's work for the coming year. The Trustees are ultimately responsible for governance and oversight of the charity, they ensure that STAR fulfils its legal obligations and carries out activities to fulfil its aims for the public benefit, they also oversee strategy and resources. The Trustees delegate responsibility for running the charity to the Chief Executive and meet quarterly as well as attending the AGM and annual student Committee Training in June.

STAR Groups

Affiliated groups

Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, City, Croydon College, Dundee, Durham, Edinburgh, Essex, Exeter, Glasgow, Glasgow School of Arts, Gloucestershire, Goldsmiths, King's College London, Kent, Leeds, Lincoln, Liverpool, Loughborough, London South Bank University, Manchester, New College of the Humanities, Northampton, Northumbria, Nottingham, Nottingham Trent, New York University London, Queen Mary University of London, Roehampton, Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam, Southampton, Stirling, Surrey, Sussex, Sunderland, St George's, University College London, University of East London, University of London Institute in Paris, University of South Wales, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Warwick, Winchester, York.

Non-affiliated groups

Aston, QMPBS, Oxford, University of East Anglia, UWE, Swansea

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Staff

STAR's work is undertaken by a network of staff and thousands of student volunteers. STAR's national office is in London with additional staff supporting the English Conversation Clubs across the country. STAR's staff team this year were:

Paid staff

Emily Crowley	Chief Executive
Maddy Robinson	Student Network Co-ordinator (left 3 rd July 2020)
Natasha Chilambo	Student Network Assistant (Temporary – left 4 th July 2020)
Jamala Abdullahi	Student Network Assistant
Hebe Tang	Student Network Assistant (Temporary)
Jida Malas	Volunteering Project Co-ordinator (Temporary – left 15 th October 2020)
Amos Schonfield	Volunteering Project Co-ordinator
Courtney Savage	Administrator (Temporary)
Anisa Shirka	Administrator
Christopher Smart	Access to University Co-ordinator (left 26 th May 2020)
Di Larkin	Conversation Club ESOL Specialist (left March 2020)
Susan Morris	Conversation Club ESOL Specialist
Abi Airey	Conversation Club ESOL Specialist
Patricia Mersh	Conversation Club ESOL Specialist
Kay Rimmington	Conversation Club ESOL Specialist
Emma Williams	Consultant, Thessaloniki Students Welcome
Kenneth Hansen	Consultant, Thessaloniki Students Welcome

National Volunteers

John McLaverty
Sophie Moreby
Hannah Carberry
Cat Walczyk
Teddy Petropoulos
Maryam Taher
Lea Berdah
Hebe Tang
Rolf Britten
Pam Saengathit
MD Mominul Hamid

Recruitment and induction of Trustees

New Trustees are elected by the STAR membership at the AGM. Candidates are asked to submit a written application to Trustees and, if selected, will be co-opted by the Board to serve until the following AGM. STAR also has three places reserved for STAR student members who are elected by the membership at the AGM

Risk Management

STAR has a risk register which is updated annually by the Trustees with advice from the staff team.

Public Benefit

When planning activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the Charity's activities met the principles laid out in that guidance.

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THE WORK OF STAR

STAR's Vision and Aims

We are building a society where refugees are welcomed and can thrive, as equal members of our community.

People seeking asylum face significant challenges in both claiming their right to protection and in building new lives and a future in the UK. Our national student movement has a long-term impact on the lives of asylum seekers and refugees by campaigning for policy change, providing direct support and by educating themselves, their fellow students, friends and family about asylum and the lived experience of refugees in the UK to create a more understanding, just and welcoming society - today and in the future.

Our volunteering projects tackle isolation and enable refugees and asylum seekers to feel welcomed, learn about their new home, improve their English, build connections, friendships and become part of the community. Volunteering activities and campus events provide a platform for refugee activists, artists and professionals and build bridges between university students and refugees in their community. They give the next generation of professionals, opinion formers and parents a real understanding of the situation of refugees in the UK mobilising them to take action to change the system. We also work to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers can join university by leading the campaign for scholarship programmes and improved access.

STAR turns 25!

"Thanks to STAR, my first full-time job was with people seeking asylum. I've worked in other sectors since then, but three years ago I returned to working with people seeking asylum when I became the executive director of the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group. STAR launched my career and the passion it ignited in me for the rights of refugees never went away." – (Leila Zadeh, Executive Director of UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group (UKLGIG) – joined Birmingham STAR in 1999)

This year was our 25th anniversary, marking a quarter century of a vibrant student refugee welcome movement that has impacted on the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and has made a difference far beyond the walls of universities. Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic we still managed to celebrate this milestone in style with events, fundraisers and by reconnecting with STAR friends & alumni.

"I have a much deeper appreciation of the experiences of people from refugee backgrounds. This makes me a much better advocate within my medical field. STAR has also inspired and pushed me to continue my activism work: without it, I don't think I would have had the insight or courage to start a charity myself." Natasha Chilambo, medical student & founder of the African Caribbean Medical Association, ACMA – joined Cardiff STAR in 2013.

Achievements in 2019/20

The STAR network

This year the reach of the STAR student movement grew to 41,829 and we were active in 61 universities and colleges in England, Scotland and Wales.

53 STAR student groups, in 39 towns and cities, were supported and empowered to take local and national action to welcome refugees. The groups were run by 285 STAR student leaders and had a membership of 4096 students. The staff team provided regular one to one support to leaders and over 100 local and national training events for leaders and members. Training events included;

- Face to face & online leadership training in the summer and autumn terms for 155 STAR leaders covering topics such as how to run a successful STAR Group, campaigning and influencing, volunteering in-person and online, and organising events & changing minds.
- Our local STAR ESOL professionals delivered training to 200 English Conversation Club volunteers.

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"I have really enjoyed being part of the new society for STAR at my university. I definitely could not have done it without the support of Maddy, Jamala and John. The constant support and advice from them has been amazing and has really helped our society, it is much appreciated" (Stirling STAR President)

Comet awards

Our Comet Awards have been running for 3 years now and were set up to recognise the amazing achievements of STAR groups. Groups can apply for the awards and have to meet certain criteria to receive them. This year 9 groups were given a Comet Award. Bath STAR, Sheffield Hallam STAR, Roehampton STAR, ULIP STAR received a bronze award. Bristol STAR & Cardiff STAR received a silver award, KCL STAR & Essex STAR received gold and LSESU STAR who went above and beyond received a platinum award. Congratulations everyone!

This year:

1. We delivered direct support to 3166 refugees and connected communities through volunteering.

"People didn't even know how to say hi! Now they can make basic conversation. People needed this. They are excited to be here and come every week" (Refugee learner at an English Conversation Club run by Birmingham STAR in an Initial Accommodation Centre)

Our staff team works with STAR groups and 43 amazing local partner organisations across the UK to set up and run effective projects together that respond to the needs of local refugees and asylum seekers. The projects help them make connections, become part of their new community and overcome many of the challenges they face in building new lives here.

"Volunteers make a big difference to our clubs and the support the children get. If it wasn't for STAR volunteers we would really struggle to keep the clubs running" (Love to Learn Homework Club Coordinator, London)

This year 1,623 STAR student volunteers were recruited to help out at 82 projects, 60 of which were student-led, supporting 3,166 refugees. The projects provided academic support for children, English conversation clubs, drop-in centres, IT workshops, gardening projects, sports clubs, fun community events and more. New projects this year included a football club for unaccompanied young people seeking asylum in Northampton in partnership with Northamptonshire Sport and L2, and in Coventry, Warwick STAR started a homework club for primary school-aged children in collaboration with Coventry City Council and their project MiFriendly Cities.

"Our project could not run without them. Their work on the conversation classes was extremely professional, and in the short period from October to March they gave nearly 1000 individual lessons to refugee and asylum seekers" (Bill Walton, British Red Cross, Nottingham)

Moving projects online!

Unsurprisingly the Covid-19 restrictions had a big impact on our volunteering activities. However, we knew that projects being forced to close meant that people seeking asylum and refugees would become even more isolated, so with the help of the staff team our resourceful STAR leaders made sure that it wasn't going to stop them completely and several groups were able to quickly move projects online. Centrally, we developed new resources, ran online training and worked with volunteering partners to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures were in place. For groups who were unable to move activities online they did their bit by fundraising for local partners, joining mutual aid groups & supporting food banks.

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Online projects included;

- A 'Craft and Conversation Club' for women run by Essex STAR ran in partnership with Refugee Action Colchester. The participants had a WhatsApp group where they sent photos of their cooking, gardening, shared recipes and celebrations of Eid. The students sent out beautiful cards to group members so that they get some positive post and a loving message. One group member who had been in hospital or recovering in a care home for over 8 months said *'To all the ladies in this group who have sent me a postcard I am saying a big thankyouuuuu for the card and message. I cannot wait to meet you all. It has brightened me so much to know you care and I feel better already. Lots of love from me to you'*.
- An informal weekly English conversation class run by Northampton STAR in partnership with L2L. They also managed to secure funding for a weekly food voucher scheme for their participants who are all young refugees and asylum seekers who would normally get a meal at college. Tash Murphy, STAR trustee and president of Northampton STAR said *"Maintaining these projects has been so important for all our wellbeing. Building a sense of community and kindness during this difficult time has been good for everyone. It's crucial to keep practising English when it is a second language and our online classes have ensured that has happened. We are sticking together when times are tough and looking forward to meeting in person when we are able to"* Tash has been interviewed about the project on the local BBC radio and for a news article in the local paper.

2. We successfully improved access to university

"STAR provides me with lots of opportunities - my involvement with STAR changed my life. I am able to get back to education, made lots of friends and connections".

In the UK people seeking asylum are locked out of university. They are treated as international students, do not have access to student finance and are not allowed to work. In addition, many people with refugee backgrounds find the UK university system difficult to navigate and struggle to get the help they need to do so. As a student movement with a national reach and close connections with local charities and refugee communities we are well placed to challenge this injustice and have been doing so successfully for over ten years. We are an expert in access to university for refugees and asylum seekers and in campaigning for, developing and managing Sanctuary Scholarships. This year we have;

- **Expanded the provision of scholarships and improved them through specialist advice and campaigning.** We supported 9 universities with scholarship development & empowered 8 STAR student groups to campaign for Equal Access at their institutions. There are now over 70 universities with scholarship programmes offering around 240 places each year to refugees and asylum seekers.
- **Provided information and advice to prospective students and university staff**
STAR responded to over 300 enquiries for support from prospective students with a refugee background and supported university practitioners with complex queries, scholarship development and maintenance and further referrals. Our Access to University information pages were viewed 27,635 times with the scholarships page accessed by 4964 people. We supported 7 STAR groups - Bath, Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, LSE, Manchester & Nottingham - to run university information days for over 60 people and hosted a webinar for prospective students in May.

"[STAR] gave lots of support for some tricky cases we've had with asylum seeker students enrolled at SHU - really helpful information via Uni of Sanctuary mailing list - their scholarship page is invaluable - other advice and guidance on how to administer and run our scholarships for sanctuary students - really, really helpful and excellent support." (Sheffield Hallam University Scholarship Coordinator).

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- **Developed a steering group of Equal Access Activists to advise, support and help grow the campaign.**

Last year in consultation with refugee members of our network we launched an Equal Access Activists group. In August Maryam Taher, York STAR leader and recent sanctuary scholar graduate, co-led an action day with staff. It brought together 6 refugee student activists to review the campaign, share experiences and ideas and plan future focus and strategy. We also provided specialist media training to give them the skills they need to work with the media and share their stories. Since then the members of the group have been taking action in many different ways; including featuring in a video about the UNESCO HE qualifications passport, delivering a workshop at the STAR national conference and a webinar for prospective students, taking part in UNICEF research, representing STAR at the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva and helping to shape & lead the STAR Equal Access campaign.

"It was amazing to come together with other Equal Access scholars and STAR staff. The day aimed to get ideas and feedback from either current or soon-to-be Equal Access scholars about the campaign, and giving us space to share our views on the positives of the scholarship and areas which could be improved. From as early as searching for universities, to the final process of experiencing the scholarship at the university, we discussed how universities could improve their practice and how STAR can help them achieve even better programmes" (Maryam Taher).

- **Continued to connect the movement and work in partnership for change.**

STAR continues to coordinate a working group of organisations for refugee and migrant access to higher education in the UK. We work closely with City of Sanctuary's "University of Sanctuary" stream and together we led on a pledge to continue to improve access to university for refugees, from the UK higher education sector, for the Global Refugee Forum. The pledge was signed by 31 Vice Chancellors and 8 organisations. We also supported two successful legal challenges which have improved access for people with humanitarian protection and people who have exhausted their right to appeal against Home Office decisions.

Equal Access success at Roehampton!

This year was an exciting one for Roehampton STAR and the end to a long journey that started back in 2017 when Katie Nguyen started university and decided to start a STAR group. It was a long campaign which involved getting the student body and student union onside with a record-breaking vote, working with senior staff, lobbying the Vice Chancellor & even donating the free accommodation she was entitled to after being voted in as a College President. But it was all worth it, because in March this year Roehampton University announced the new Sacred Heart Sanctuary Scholarship, designed to support those who might otherwise be unable to access higher education funding as a result of their immigration status, entitling the recipients to a full undergraduate tuition fee waiver and 52 weeks of paid for on-campus accommodation each year!

3. We amplified the voice and experiences of refugees and shared the facts about asylum with 22,000 people.

"Very insightful and moving stories from some current asylum seekers. Learnt a lot more about the asylum process and the lift the ban campaign"

Hostile public opinion drives harsh public policy and an unwelcoming reception for refugees in local communities. We empower students to hold engaging and informative events to educate about asylum and the experiences of refugees, that provide a platform for experts by experience, academics, activists and organisations, in order to create a more understanding, welcoming society. This year almost 22,000 people attended 550 local and national events. These events took place on and off campus and on and offline and ranged from demonstrations, stalls and film showings to speaker events, plays and comedy nights.

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STAR annual conference and AGM

Our annual student conference celebrating "The Power of a Movement: 25 years of Student Action for Refugees" took place on 23rd November bringing together 96 students from across the UK to learn, share and get the tools needed to make change. It was a fun and inspiring day of talks and workshops with keynotes from sector leaders like the Refugee Council and Refugee Rights Europe, panels chaired by and workshops delivered by STAR student leaders with lived experience plus frontline organisations & refugee activists like the All African Women's Group.

"Really enjoyable and thought-provoking day. The wide range of experiences and knowledge the speakers were able to share was excellent"

"An amazing, touching, shocking and funny testimony that really makes me want to do more and continue the work we do with STAR"

Refugee Week

STAR is a member of the Refugee Week steering group and this year was one of our busiest Refugee Weeks ever! To celebrate our 25th Anniversary we launched a photo project timeline of some of the amazing people who have been part of STAR over the years and STAR groups, families and friends contributed to a beautiful virtual "welcome quilt". UNHCR produced a video celebrating the work we have done improving access to university and we held a huge international online event for Arup with our trustee Shrouk el Attar, LGBT refugee activist & engineer. We also co-hosted a hilarious comedy event with Counterpoints Arts attended by 149 people which raised £500 for STAR. STAR groups got busy organising quiz nights, panel events, a drama workshop with Phosphorus Theatre and Glasgow School of Art STAR even hosted a radio show last lasted from sunrise to sunset!

Warwick STAR – "Imagine... A better world: Refugee Week panel event discussion". Warwick STAR hosted a panel discussion to launch Refugee Week to shine a light on the issues faced by people from refugee backgrounds during the pandemic. They partnered with Coventry Welcomes to organise the event, which featured author and activist Gulwali Passarlay and Matthew Saltmarsh from UNHCR, as well as other panelists with lived experience. People were able to tune in and interact with the panelists from their homes, and to improve the accessibility of the event, the stream was captioned. One Warwick STAR member said: *"Hearing from our amazing panelists about their work with refugees and asylum-seekers and their own personal stories was incredibly inspiring. It was very insightful to learn more about how refugees and asylum-seekers have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as how we can best continue to support and campaign for refugees and asylum-seekers in the long-term. What a fantastic start to Refugee Week!"*

4. We challenged the hostile environment and campaigned for policy change

"STAR gives me the opportunity to step up and become a student activist to raise awareness, volunteer and campaign for people seeking asylum. Connecting with other people who are as passionate as I am to the same cause and working together was an encouraging and inspiring experience." (KCL STAR President)

STAR mobilises and empowers thousands of students across the country to take action on national campaigns. This year we have been campaigning in coalition with Lift the Ban for the right to work for asylum seekers, an end to immigration detention with These Walls Must Fall and improved refugee family reunion rights with Families Together. Our student groups have held stalls and events on campus to inform their peers and get them to take action, organised campaign stunts, signed and shared petitions and lobbied their local MP's. During lockdown we mobilised students to put pressure on the government to make sure the needs of people seeking sanctuary in the UK were not ignored. STARs added their names to open letters, signed and shared petitions asking for asylum support to be increased, immigration detainees to be released and refugees and migrants who were homeless or destitute to be housed

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Safe routes – campaigning for improved family reunion rights with the Families Together Coalition

We were excited to be asked to join the Families Together campaign steering group this year and to be part of the petition hand-in to the Home Secretary in February– it was signed by an amazing 75,000 people! We joined the Families Together Action Day in January with groups getting 484 action cards signed and sent to MPs and we continued our successful partnership with Oxfam and organised a second tour of the award-winning Museum without a Home exhibition to gather more support for the Families Together campaign. It was hosted by five STAR groups across the country with visitors learning about and taking action on the campaign and another 1050 more action cards were signed and sent to MPs. Glasgow STAR even got 600 people to put their name on a petition in support of the campaign. They had invited their local MP, Patrick Grady, to visit the exhibition and he was so impressed he offered to present their petition in the House of Commons – which he did on the 11th February.

Campaigning for an end to the detention of people seeking asylum - success at Morton Hall

Morton Hall Immigration Detention Centre is near Sheffield and local groups, including Sheffield STAR, have been campaigning for its closure for years. They have held regular protests and demonstrations including a national demonstration against immigration detention outside the detention centre in October organised by Sheffield STAR, alongside SYMAG and These Walls Must Fall, another had been planned for March but was cancelled at the last minute. All their hard work. However an announcement in July the long journey was over it was announced that Morton Hall Immigration Detention Centre was to close! *"We give thanks and solidarity to those in South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group, Student Action for Refugees Sheffield, and campaigners from Nottingham, Sheffield, and other areas for their persistent protests for closure for the last decade."* (These Walls Must Fall)

STAR's Week of Action for Lift the Ban: Campaigning for asylum seekers to be given the right to work

In March From Sussex to York, STAR groups organised awareness-raising events and stalls which reached 4,000 people to tell them about the devastating human impact and the waste of skills and talent caused by denying people seeking asylum the right to work and to get them to lobby their local MP. And this was despite many events being cancelled because of Covid-19. Bristol STAR took it even further and organised a whole month of action collecting over 1200 signatures on a petition - and meeting with councillors from all parties - to ask Bristol City Council to pass a motion to join the Lift the Ban coalition. Events included a panel event with Thangam Debbonaire (Bristol West MP), NACCOM, Red Cross and refugee activists.

5. We shared the STAR model internationally

This year it was exciting to see the STaRTNow student groups in Thessaloniki, Greece go from strength to strength. In partnership with SolidarityNow we have supported the establishment of three student-led groups at Aristotle University, the University of Macedonia and the Technological Institute of Sindos. The Aristotle group is the largest with 80 members. We have also been working with partners in Greece to develop an advocacy strategy for improving access to university for refugees.

"The trip in London was a unique experience for all of us. We met people from different countries creating a multicultural environment not only in the STAR Conference but also in the conversation class in Birmingham. In the conference passionate speakers motivated the students surrounded by a well-organized program. The secret recipe of that was the fantastic STAR staff that was there for everything." (Athanasia Papingi, STaRTNow Coordinator).

The main activity of the groups has been running regular fun and informal Greek conversation clubs for refugees but they have also held many other events and activities including hosting film nights, creating an online magazine and running an information session for young refugees on accessing university in Greece.

"My Greek has improved a lot because before coming to the clubs I was very shy, I couldn't speak with anyone." (Refugee Learner at Conversation Club)

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Thank you to our donors

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, European Students' Union, The Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Trust, The Henry Smith Charity, The Maingot Charitable Trust, The Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund, Foundation Open Society Institute, The AB Charitable Trust, The Refugee Council, Southall Trust, Unbound Philanthropy, The Cottingham charity trust, Kings College Chapel, Manchester University & Cass Business School.

STAR groups at the universities of City, Lincoln, Bath, Bristol, Birmingham, KCL, Goldsmiths, Sussex, Reading, UCL, LSE & York

Sponsored & fundraising events

- Vitality London "Big Half" – thanks to our amazing runners Maddy, Hannah, Frank, Natasha & Miranda!
- The 2.6 challenge – thanks to Just Love Brum, Birmingham STAR, Ed Arnold & family, Mary Crowley & family & Izzy Rainbow from Northampton STAR!
- London marathon – thanks Alexander Zouev from NCH STAR!
- Sheffield Hallam STAR virtual marathon – thanks to Hannah, Bob & Betty!
- NME charity gig – thanks to Sussex STAR, NME, Black Honey & Opus Kink!
- Counterpoint Arts & STAR No Direction Home online comedy night – thanks to all the comedians & Counterpoint Arts!

And a huge thank-you to everyone else who has donated to support our work this year! We couldn't do what we do without you.

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Future Plans

STAR's STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 - 20

Maintain, develop and expand the student network

- Grow our student network to 50 groups
- Grow our network at further education colleges to 1/5 of our membership
- Increase the number of paid staff supporting the student network
- Expand our tailored training programmes for STAR students
- Collaborate with individuals and agencies internationally to support the creation of STAR-like movements in other countries

Deliver direct services to refugees

- Continue to train and support students to volunteer at partner refugee projects
- Increase the number of refugees we assist to 4,000 pa
- Expand our English Conversation Clubs from 12 – 20
- Create programmes to support refugees to apply for university

Promote understanding of and positive attitudes to refugees and refugee protection

- Continue to support students to deliver educational events on campus
- Improve website and social media communications
- Develop a network of student spokespeople
- Promote the work of STAR students as positive examples of refugee welcome to the UK

Increase our work advocating for the rights of refugees

- Lead the Equal Access campaign to ensure asylum seekers and people with humanitarian protection have equal access to higher education
- Collaborate with partner organisations to increase safe and legal routes to refugee protection in the UK
- Collaborate with partner organisations to identify and deliver further campaigns in which the student movement can make a significant difference to the lives of refugees in the UK.

Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our charity

- Diversify and increase our sources of funding
- Improve our methods of data collection and recording so that we can communicate better with STAR students and STAR graduates
- Invest in staff and volunteers through training and development
- Enhance governance by recruiting Board members with additional skills
- Develop our work to meet the changing needs of refugees in the UK

Use our expertise and knowledge to develop good practice both inside STAR and externally

- Ensure STAR students receive expert support and assistance for their work
- Support the work of other organisations by providing advice and sharing our good practice
- Develop collaborations with organisations seeking to empower students to welcome refugees or improve access to higher education for refugees

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Financial review

The Charity's principal source of funding was in the form of grants raised for the activities described above. During the year, income totalled £225,164 (2019: £216,144) and expenditure £ 257,538 (2019: £256,992).

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy was reviewed and updated by the Board of Trustees in January 2020. The Board concluded that STAR needs reserves in order to

- Ensure the charity can meet its obligations in the event of it having to close down or significantly reduce in size. This cost has been estimated at £38,429.
- Meet foreseeable but unknowable costs which cannot be funded from specific or restricted funding, e.g., maternity/paternity/adoption leave and cost of covering shortfalls in funding. This cost has been estimated at £15,500.

The Board, therefore, has a target for unrestricted reserves of £53,929.

At 30 June 2020, the charity held Unrestricted Reserves of £37,714 (2019: £42,003) and Restricted Reserves of £42,393 (2019: £70,478).

Trustees Responsibilities

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

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable [company/group] 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 proper 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.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Preparation of the report

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 25/11/ 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Dave Garratt
Chair

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES).
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
TRUSTEES OF STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 June 2020 which are set out on pages 15 to 24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



K C Fisher FCA
c/o Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants
Norman House, 8 Burnell Road,
Sutton, Surrey. SM1 4BW

Dated: 31-12-2020

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	Total Unrestricted funds	Total Restricted funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019 (Note 3)
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations		22,638	-	22,638	7,526
Gifts in kind		7,960	-	7,960	9,410
Grants (Note 2)		129,887	62,257	192,144	196,457
Events income		1,321	-	1,321	2,480
Interest receivable		123	-	123	100
Other income		978	-	978	171
Total Income		162,907	62,257	225,164	216,144
Expenditure					
Fundraising		590	-	590	216
Direct Costs					
Student network support costs		6,114	3,531	9,645	16,059
Printing		51	849	900	1,181
Educational resources		4,519	54	4,573	2,461
Thessaloniki Students welcome project grants		-	20,490	20,490	18,500
Telephone and internet		100	435	535	1,119
Postage and courier		-	255	255	638
Office and training materials		-	-	-	415
Subscriptions and membership fees		231	-	231	-
Staff costs (Note 5)		131,247	37,147	168,394	176,689
Staff training and recruitment		1,489	100	1,589	1,287
ESOL Tutors		-	1,940	1,940	3,670
Staff travel and subsistence		1,811	2,947	4,758	7,088
Support costs					
Professional fees		607	17,183	17,790	3,533
Rent, rates and room hire		16,109	2,500	18,609	17,869
Insurance		113	1,000	1,113	1,087
Computer and IT		607	645	1,252	827
Bank charges		119	66	185	177
Independent examiner's fees		3,120	-	3,120	3,120
Other governance costs		369	1,200	1,569	1,056
Total expenditure		167,196	90,342	257,538	256,992
Net (expenditure)/income	4	(4,289)	(28,085)	(32,374)	(40,848)
Total funds at 1 July 2019		42,003	70,478	112,481	153,329
Total funds at 30 June 2020		£37,714	£42,393	£80,107	£112,481

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The statement of Financial Activities includes all recognised gains and losses.

The notes form part of these financial statements

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	6	1	1
Current assets			
Debtors		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		176,362	157,057
		<u>176,362</u>	<u>157,057</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(96,256)</u>	<u>(44,577)</u>
Net current assets		<u>80,106</u>	<u>112,480</u>
Total assets less current Liabilities		<u>£80,107</u>	<u>£112,481</u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	8	42,393	70,478
Unrestricted funds	8	37,714	42,003
Total funds		<u>£80,107</u>	<u>£112,481</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 June 2020.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020 in accordance with Section 476 of the companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit for loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Special Provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 25th October 2020 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Dave Garratt
Chair



James Osborne
Treasurer

The notes form part of these financial statements.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Company status

The Charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity. The registered office of the Company is given in the reference and administrative details on Page 1.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial activities (SoFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donated services are included in income at the estimate value to the Charity, when quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised for services donated by volunteers.

Income Tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time of the donation.

Expenditure recognition

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

- Costs of raising funds which comprise those costs associated with attracting general donations
- Expenditure on charitable activities which comprises the costs of running the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support them. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020 /contd...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES /cont....

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Fixtures and fittings - 33%

Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2. GRANTS RECEIVABLE

	2020 £	2019 £
Network for Social Change	-	6,943
The Henry Smith Charity	-	46,200
Unbound Philanthropy	528	-
Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Trust	22,500	25,000
Refugee Council	25,000	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	66,200	30,000
Foundation Open Society Institute	55,894	58,442
European Students' Union	163	4,872
Alan and Babette Sainsbury	7,500	5,000
Maingot Charitable Trust	10,000	10,000
A B Charitable Trust	-	10,000
Southall Trust	3,000	-
Other Grants	1,359	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	£192,144	£196,457
	<hr/>	<hr/>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020 /contd...

3. ANALYSIS OF COMPARATIVE FIGURES

(These are the figures for the year ended 30 June 2019)

	Note	Total Unrestricted funds £	Total Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Income					
Donations		7,526	-	7,526	19,528
Gifts in kind		9,410	-	9,410	8,483
Grants (Note 2)		80,000	116,457	196,457	168,201
Events income		2,480	-	2,480	2,917
Interest receivable		100	-	100	41
Other income		171	-	171	206
Total income		99,687	116,457	216,144	199,376
Expenditure					
Fundraising		216	-	216	1,444
Direct Costs					
Volunteer costs		8,000	8,059	16,059	13,580
Printing		741	440	1,181	329
Educational resources		1,761	700	2,461	2,374
Regional Asylum Activism Grants		-	18,500	18,500	-
Telephone and internet		619	500	1,119	1,277
Postage and courier		238	400	638	428
Office and training materials		415	-	415	951
Subscriptions and membership fees		-	-	-	228
Staff costs (Note 5)		119,932	56,757	176,689	203,962
Staff training and recruitment		987	300	1,287	901
ESOL Tutors		-	3,670	3,670	2,950
Staff travel and subsistence		1,847	5,241	7,088	5,333
Support costs					
Professional fees		783	2,750	3,533	558
Rent, rates and room hire		12,602	5,267	17,869	14,905
Insurance		87	1,000	1,087	1,070
Computer and IT		827	-	827	624
Bank charges		151	26	177	160
Independent examiner's fees		3,120	-	3,120	3,120
Other governance costs		1,056	-	1,056	641
Grant – balance of NSC Funds for RAA to Asylum Matters		-	-	-	27,291
Total expenditure		153,382	103,610	256,992	282,126
Net (expenditure)/income	4	(53,695)	12,847	(40,848)	(82,750)
Total funds at 1 July 2018		95,698	57,631	153,329	236,079
Total funds at 30 June 2019		£42,003	£70,478	£112,481	£153,329

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020 /contd...

4. NET INCOME

	2020	2019
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Independent examiner's fees including accounts production	£3,120	£3,120
Pension contributions	<u>£6,532</u>	<u>£8,010</u>

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2019 - £Nil).

During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2019 - £Nil).

3 Trustees received reimbursement of subsistence expenses amounting to £296 in the current year (2019 – 4 Trustees - £952).

5. STAFF COSTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	151,553	156,639
Social security costs	10,309	12,040
Other pension costs	<u>6,532</u>	<u>8,010</u>
	<u>£168,394</u>	<u>£176,689</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

2020	2019
Number	Number
<u>6.3</u>	<u>5.6</u>

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Total employee benefits received by key management amounted to £58,180 (2019: £60,738).

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020 /contd...

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £
COST	
At 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020	3,070
	<u>3,070</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020	3,069
	<u>3,069</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30 June 2020	£1
	<u>£1</u>
At 30 June 2019	£1
	<u>£1</u>

7. CREDITORS:

Amounts falling due within one year

	2019 £	2018 £
Trade creditors	235	353
Other taxation and social security	1,963	1,469
Pensions payable	872	1,455
Other creditors	66	680
Accruals and deferred income	93,120	40,620
	<u>£96,256</u>	<u>£44,577</u>

DEFERRED INCOME

Deferred income at 1 July 2019	37,500
Amounts released from previous year	(37,500)
The Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund	5,000
Maingot Charitable Trust	5,000
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	30,000
Refugee Council	50,000
	<u>£90,000</u>
Deferred income at 30 June 2020	<u>£90,000</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020 /contd...

8. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Carried forward £
DESIGNATED FUNDS				
Designated fixed assets fund	1	-	-	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
GENERAL FUND				
General fund	42,002	162,907	167,196	37,713
	<u>42,002</u>	<u>162,907</u>	<u>167,196</u>	<u>37,713</u>
Total unrestricted funds	42,003	162,907	167,196	37,714
	<u>42,003</u>	<u>162,907</u>	<u>167,196</u>	<u>37,714</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Network for Social Change	1,730	-	1,730	-
The Henry Smith Charity	38,750	-	38,750	-
Foundation Open Society Institute	29,998	55,894	48,499	37,393
European Students' Union	-	163	163	-
Esme Fairbairn	-	6,200	1,200	5,000
	<u>70,478</u>	<u>62,257</u>	<u>90,342</u>	<u>42,393</u>
Total of funds	<u>£112,481</u>	<u>£225,164</u>	<u>£257,538</u>	<u>£80,107</u>
SUMMARY OF FUNDS				
	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Carried forward £
Designated funds	1	-	-	1
General fund	42,002	162,907	167,196	37,713
	<u>42,003</u>	<u>162,907</u>	<u>167,196</u>	<u>37,714</u>
Restricted funds	70,478	62,257	90,342	42,393
	<u>70,478</u>	<u>62,257</u>	<u>90,342</u>	<u>42,393</u>
Total of funds	<u>£112,481</u>	<u>£225,164</u>	<u>£257,538</u>	<u>£80,103</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020 /contd...

8. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

(These are the figures for the year ended 30 June 2019)

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Carried forward £
DESIGNATED FUNDS				
Designated fixed assets fund	1	-	-	1
GENERAL FUND				
General fund	95,697	99,687	153,382	42,002
Total unrestricted funds	95,698	99,687	153,382	42,003
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Network for Social Change	-	6,943	5,213	1,730
The Henry Smith Charity	36,274	46,200	43,724	38,750
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	20,500	-	20,500	-
Equal Access Project	-	58,442	28,444	29,998
European Students' Union	857	4,872	5,729	-
	57,631	116,457	103,610	70,478
Total of funds	<u>£153,329</u>	<u>£216,144</u>	<u>£256,992</u>	<u>£112,481</u>
SUMMARY OF FUNDS				
	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Carried forward £
Designated funds	1	-	-	1
General fund	95,697	99,687	153,382	42,002
	95,698	99,687	153,382	42,003
Restricted funds	57,631	116,457	103,610	70,478
Total of funds	<u>£153,329</u>	<u>£216,144</u>	<u>£256,992</u>	<u>£112,481</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020 /contd...

9. NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed assets	1	-	1
Current assets	133,969	42,393	176,362
Current liabilities	(96,256)	-	(96,256)
	<u>£37,714</u>	<u>£42,393</u>	<u>£80,107</u>

10. CONTINGENT ASSETS

The charity has been awarded several multi-year grants, however, not all of the funds awarded have been recognised as income due to the policy of recognising income in accordance with agreed budgets and implied time frames. The total grant income awarded but not yet received amounts to £52,500 (2019 - £193,000).