



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date  
From 05 April 2020 To 05 April 2021

## Section A

## Reference and administration details

Charity name ARBITRATION FUND FOR AFRICAN STUDENTS

Other names charity is known by AFAS

Registered charity number (if any) 1185823

Charity's principal address  
FLAT 403, MARBLE ARCH APARTMENTS  
11 HARROWBY STREET  
LONDON  
Postcode W1H 5PR

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Nneka Emilia Onyema	Founder		Board of Trustees
2	Chrispas Nyombi	Chairman		Board of Trustees
3	Eunice Shang-Simpson	Secretary		Board of Trustees
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### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Nneka Emilia Onyema	



Chrispas Nyombi	
Eunice Shang-Simpson	

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountants	Barnett Young & Partners	15 The Broadway, Woodford Green, 1G8 0HL

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Nneka Emilia Onyema,	Chrispas Nyombi,	Eunice Shang-Simpson
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## Section B Structure, governance and management

#### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods	Appointed by the Board of Trustees

#### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Every Trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Board of Trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment, the Charity Trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity. All three of our trustees over the reporting period are British nationals from an academic/ legal practice background with a longstanding record of service. According to our Constitution, no individual can be appointed as a Trustee if they are under the age of 16 years and no one is entitled to act as a charity trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged his or her acceptance of the office of Charity Trustee. We also have a very diverse body of Trustees, with two females and one male, from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

The Charity's activities are organised and run by the Board of Trustees. It is the main management and decision-making body of the organisation. It consists of:

Founder: Professor Nneka Emilia Onyema (SOAS University of London)  
Chairman: Dr Chrispas Nyombi (University of Derby)  
Secretary: Eunice-Shang Simpson (Canterbury ChristChurch University)

The Charity holds Trustees' meetings every first Saturday of the month. There must be at least two Charity trustees present to have a quorum. The Charity undertakes its activities with the support of the Trustees and their respective organisations. This has enabled the Charity to expand its activities, as detailed under Section D, and its reach across the UK, the

European Union, Africa and around the world. The Charity also seeks to develop partnerships with organisations from the UK and around the world that share our common belief in equality, diversity and developing capacity in Arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution in Africa.

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The object of AFAS as set out in the Constitution is:

To advance education in the knowledge, skills, techniques, use and methods of arbitration by the provision of:

- (a) funding for students in Africa to attend arbitration related conferences, workshops and moots.
- (b) a website that will enable information relating to arbitration to be made available and accessible to the general public.



**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The Charity documents and its current and future events are on the AFAS website [<https://afas-global.org/>]. Over the course of this financial year, the Charity has undertaken a number of activities aimed at tackling the particular disadvantages faced by Africans in participating in International Arbitration as supported by empirical research [see SOAS Arbitration in Africa Survey 2020]. Our activities have grown exponentially over the course of this financial year. This included the successful launch of the "AFAS in Conversation" series. The speakers have included leading figures in international arbitration based on the African continent, Europe and around the world. The series, advertised via Eventbrite and our own website, have been a lever for skills development enabling young students and practitioners from around the world to learn from the knowledge and experiences of leading figures in the field. In addition, using our website, we launched video series where leading academics and practitioners from around the world shared their knowledge by answering key/topical questions in the field of international arbitration. This is a good method for disseminating knowledge and information, particularly given the calibre of the presenters.

The Charity's finance generation and grant making activities were largely affected by the absence of a bank account. This matter was placed on top of the agenda for the financial year 05 April 2021- 05 April 2022. Nonetheless, the Charity was able to offer fee waivers to 20 students/young practitioners to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> SOAS Arbitration in Africa Conference that was held virtually on 25-26 November 2021.

To support our vision of closer collaboration between anglophone and francophone African countries, the Charity has forwarded a Memorandum of Understanding following discussions with the Secretary-General of the Common Court of Justice and Arbitration of the Organization for the Harmonization in Africa of Business Law (CCJA) in an effort to bridge the divide between arbitration communities in Francophone and Anglophone Africa (Communities). We committed to increase awareness around diversity/inclusion and in particular fair representation of Francophone African Arbitration Practitioners (FAAP) on international arbitration tribunals and in Africa-related arbitrations in line with the *African Promise*. We also committed to increase dialogue between Communities with the AFAS offering translations of official text of important arbitration related court decisions or awards from the CCJA (or other francophone African countries) into short summaries in English to increase access to such jurisprudence within the English-speaking parts of Africa.

In February 2021, the AFAS accepted support from Alliant Law, an international law firm headquartered in the US to host our virtual AFAS in Conversation series. As a result, Alliant has been pivotal to the success of our Conversation series which are streamed via their zoom account. Furthermore, in this financial year, the AFAS launched a blog for the purposes of providing a platform for disseminating research on key developments in the field of arbitration from around the world. We support and encourage articles/blogs that are innovative, demonstrate original scholarship and contribute to the field of international arbitration, with a particular interest (but not limited to) arbitration in Africa. Thus, the AFAS is committed to diversity and inclusion in publishing with the objective to disseminate high-quality research. The AFAS plans to launch its mentorship programme and strengthen existing activities in the next financial year.

All our Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity

Commission on public benefit.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

During this financial year, the Charity has largely depended on the goodwill of our Trustees and the support of the international arbitration community to carry out its core activities.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.





## Section D

## Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Charity has committed and successfully discharged a number projects/activities over the course of this financial year.

1. Launch of the AFAS Blog. The blog publishes once a month, following a robust peer review process. It therefore promises to become a widely sought-after publisher/ information source. During this financial year, publications have featured on the blog from academics/practitioners from a number of institutions, not only the UK, but around the world.
2. Launch of the Conversation Series. The series have undoubtedly raised the profile of our Charity and helped to project our mission and activities in the UK, Africa and around the world. The invited guests are often eminent figures in their respective fields including academics, judges, lawyers, politicians and other respected members of the legal fraternity, from around the world. This serves our objective of advancing education in the knowledge, skills, techniques, use and methods of arbitration.
3. Collaborations with Alliant Law, an international law firm and the CCJA. Our charity remains committed to developing links, associations and partner with organisation who share our vision. Both these collaborations advance our interests both through the provision of technical/logistical support or expanding knowledge, skills and techniques.
4. Launch of AFAS Videos. Following the launch of our website, we committed to publishing essential content on international arbitration. A number of leading academics and practitioners in the field were invited to address key foundational questions on international arbitration and the videos were posted on our website. This has had the effect of raising awareness on a number of key issues such as lack of diversity in international arbitration and above all, disseminating knowledge and information.
5. Case Summaries. We invited colleagues from across Africa to send us case summaries for upload on our website. We received some case summaries which are freely downloadable from our website. This service provides much needed access to judicial decisions from across African judiciaries.

None of our activities in this financial year involved the provision or generation of funds/donations. These activities will be undertaken in the next financial year following the successful opening of our charity bank account.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Charity's finances are administered by the Founder and Chair, with oversight from the Board of Trustees. During this financial year, the charity received a £6,0000 donation from our Founder Prof. Nneka Emilia Onyema.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

The Charity does not currently have a financial deficit.

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

These funds (£6000) remained unspent during this financial year. However, the Charity has already entered a number of commitments for the next financial year, including the creation and management of our Charity website; obtaining our own zoom account for our events; and signing up for a gmail based email account. This will include paying our accountants that we have now appointed.

## Section F

## Other optional information

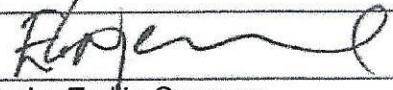
None.

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Chrispas Nyombi	
Full name(s)	Chrispas Nyombi	Nneka Emilia Onyema
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Founder
Date	28 January 2022	