

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For year ending 31st March 2019

Centre for Women's Justice

Centre for Women's Justice
(Registered charity, number 1169213)
Financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2019

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Centre for Women's Justice
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2019

Full name Centre for Women's Justice

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1169213

Principal address

Oxford House
Derbyshire Street
London
E2 6HG

Website Address: www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk

Trustees

Sasha Deepwell, Chair
Sarah Ricca,
Sanchita Hosali
Esohe Aghatise
Davina James-Hanman
Sara Hampson, until 31/10/19

Heather Harvey
Fiona MacKenzie, from 8/12/19, Treasurer
Yasmin Rehman
Samira Ahmed
Janice Turner

Key Management

Director: Harriet Wistrich

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, 7 Mansfield Road,
Nottingham, NG1 3FB

Bankers

CafBank Limited
PO BOX 289
West Malling
ME 19 4TA

Governance and management

The CIO-Foundation is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 17/3/16.

- 1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.
- 2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Centre for Women's Justice

Objectives and activities

To advance the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) by: seeking to prevent violence against women and girls and protect those rights which are adversely impacted by violence against women and girls; and the elimination of discrimination against women and girls in the criminal justice system.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Centre for Women's Justice provides benefits to all women and girls who now or in the future, may need to seek redress after having been failed by the state and subject to discriminatory treatment within the criminal justice system.

Our Vision

Our vision is a society in which all state institutions work effectively to eradicate male violence against women and girls.

Our Mission

Our mission is to hold the state to account and challenge discrimination in the justice system around male violence against women and girls.

Our Values

We believe that:

- All women have an equal right to access justice and to be safe;
- Male violence is not inevitable: it can be eradicated;
- Women resist male violence but are blamed for it;
- All women and girls can be subject to male violence regardless of their socio-economic and cultural position;
- Male violence may take different forms in different contexts, so opportunities for resistance may differ.

Key principles underlying our approach:

- Work with the client not for the client, by listening and responding to each woman's individual experience;
- Work collaboratively with frontline organisations and campaigns;
- A commitment to anti-oppression politics.

Centre for Women's Justice

Summary of the main achievements during the period

This report sets out the progress we have made on our strategic plan in the period of 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019

1. Undertaking strategic litigation and providing access to legal assistance in cases concerning violence against women (VAWG)

- Obtained a legal aid contract, commenced litigation and developed a strategy on how to support legal cases and other interventions including:
 - A judicial review challenge of the CPS decision not to prosecute the prime suspect in a domestic homicide case supported by a CrowdJustice campaign: 'Justice for Jourdain';
 - Providing submissions to the Dame Laura Cox Inquiry on behalf of women bullied and sexually harassed in Parliament;
 - Exploring litigation against Greater Manchester Police and submissions to the child abuse inquiry on behalf of victims of 'grooming gangs' in Rochdale;
 - Preparing grounds of appeal against conviction and a separate public law challenge in relation to rape complainants prosecuted for perverting the course of justice – raising wider systemic issues about the reversal of protections designed to encourage women to come forward;
 - Exploring a public law challenge on behalf of a coalition of women's organisations to challenge an unlawful policy operated by the CPS undermining the prosecution of rape;
 - Preparing a public law challenge of the National Police Chiefs Council and the CPS in relation to their policy on requiring digital downloads of rape victims' personal devices;
 - Supporting third party interventions into Supreme Court Cases on prostitution-specific criminal records, a libel case against a complainant in a domestic violence case and a challenge on the burden of proof for suicide verdicts in inquest cases;
 - Exploring a judicial review of the CPS interpretation of the offence of voyeurism.

Developed a lawyers' reference panel to increase access to justice and act as a referral point for organisations. We provided introductory training sessions to those wishing to join our legal reference panel – around 100 people attended in total.

"Very interesting and informative. Passionate speakers who were knowledgeable on the topics. Useful in that I now feel more equipped to assist new clients in relation to complaints against the police etc." Lawyer, attendee of lawyer training session

Centre for Women's Justice

- Dealt with a total of 81 enquiries (from members of the public / referrals from frontline organisations and others) by providing advice, referring to lawyers on our panel or signposting during the three-month period of Jan-March

"CWJ were incredibly supportive, driven and proactive with my case. They carried me through an incredibly difficult time and delivered results"
Anonymous Survivor.

2. Empowering front line service providers with legal knowledge and promoting a collaborative approach to legal challenges relying on the share expertise of survivors, activists, women's groups, researchers, journalists, politicians and lawyers.

- Designed and developed toolkits and delivered bespoke training on recognising and challenging policing failures in domestic abuse, harassment and stalking and/or sexual offences to seven frontline women's organisations, a total of 125 people. These have built enhanced knowledge and confidence of staff and senior management and provided a rights - based framework for their work, identifying systemic issues and opening up the possibility of using legal remedies

'It was brilliant. It gave me information & tools to hold state to account and enabled me to inform my clients to make informed decisions.'
Frontline advocate

"Absolutely brilliant...Handouts/toolkits & all effort gone to compile this has been above & beyond." Frontline advocate

- Became a designated body for super-complaints and launched our first super-complaint on the 'police failure to use protective measures in cases involving violence against women and girls.
- Developed and started implementing a system for advising frontline advocates on legal issues and providing onward referrals to lawyers on our panel

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3. Raising awareness in relation to issues arising from CWJ casework and becoming a focal point for the media

- Gained national recognition through widespread media coverage, across all major news outlets, of cases supported by us such as:
 - A challenge to the Government's Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS) in relation to the disclosure of the criminal records of women forced into prostitution.
 - National media coverage of many other high profile legal challenges including relating to the prosecution of rape and the use of digital downloads, protections for victims of domestic abuse and in respect of domestic homicide cases
- CWJ director, Harriet Wistrich, has delivered talks and key note addresses about the charity and legal cases addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) at over 25 national conferences and seminar events including the Women's Aid conference, Rape Crisis of England conference, Women's Equality Party conference, Byline Festival, Women of the World Festival, The Prisoner's Advice Service Annual Panel Discussion, the Society of Editors and the Public Law and Justice Human Rights conference. She comments regularly to news outlets about legal cases and has also been profiled and featured in articles in national media and specialist publications including The Times, The Guardian, in newspaper and the Law Society Gazette.
- Harriet featured in the Grazia 'Ten Women Who've Changed The Conversation This Year' and won the legal aid lawyer of the year 2018 for Public Law

4. Monitoring and challenging trends in policy, practice and men's use of the law as it impacts on VAWG

- Commenced a major research project on women who kill in conjunction with the campaigning and law reform group Justice for Women, and gained approval from the Government National Offender Management Service. Findings will identify whether there is a need for reform of law and/or practice in cases which involve abused women and will also form the basis for an advocates' toolkit and other training to enhance legal practice and reduce miscarriages of justice.
- Contributed to the HM Government consultation on 'Transforming the response to domestic violence' and the Gender Recognition Act. Prepared a submission on the situation of women seeking access to justice for the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

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5. Establishing CWJ as a robust organisation with appropriate governance, staffing, volunteers and funding.

Established an organisation operating to high standards of governance with a skilled board and staff team; an informal and flexible advisory group of expert lawyers, women's sector specialists and academics who have attended round table discussions and fed into the development of our work.

The charity's policy on reserves

We aim to have 3 months running costs in reserves. For the financial year April 2018 to March 2019 this amount was £40,000.

Funds held for Clients

The charity holds a separate client bank account. The balance in this account at 31/3/2019 was £11,075 (See note 5).

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed  Date 8/12/19
Sasha Deepwell, Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of

Centre for Women's Justice for the year ended 31 March 2019

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Centre for Women's Justice (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').


I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed  Date 17/12/19
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

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Receipts & payments account for the year ended 31 March 2019


2018				2019	
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds	
£	Note	£	£	£	
Receipts					
185157	Grants & donations	2	73685	100360	174045
<u>3770</u>	Fees & membership		<u>10261</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10261</u>
<u>188927</u>	Total receipts		<u>83946</u>	<u>100360</u>	<u>184306</u>
Payments					
21598	Wages, NI & pension		89273	21928	111201
1440	Travel & subsistence		1973	1505	3478
1294	Professional & legal fees		8352	11750	20102
482	Speakers costs		-	-	-
194	Stationery		354	80	434
329	Printing & photocopying		176	263	439
7	Website		252	-	252
3568	Contract services		-	-	-
2687	Research		-	-	-
60	Bank charges		75	-	75
252	Insurance		2244	-	2244
2768	Training & conferences		1058	-	1058
1382	Equipment		4924	-	4924
60	Telephone		33	-	33
-	Rent & services		9713	2200	11913
-	IT		-	245	245
-	Memberships		1459	-	1459
<u>151</u>	Catering		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>36272</u>	Total payments		<u>119886</u>	<u>37971</u>	<u>157857</u>
152655	Net receipts/(payments)		(35940)	62389	26449
<u>10998</u>	Cash funds at start of this period		<u>163653</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>163653</u>
<u>163653</u>	Cash funds at end of this period		<u>127713</u>	<u>62389</u>	<u>190102</u>

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Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2019

2018			2019
£	Cash assets	Note	£
<u>163653</u>	Bank accounts		<u>190102</u>
<u>163653</u>			<u>190102</u>
Assets retained for the charity's own use			
General equipment.			
Computer equipment purchased in 2017 at a cost of £1,249.			
Liabilities			
<u>(384)</u>	Creditors	4	<u>(600)</u>
<u>(384)</u>			<u>(600)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed 
Fiona MacKenzie, Trustee

Dated 8 December 2019

Centre for Women's Justice

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
The Access To Justice Foundation	-	20000	20000
Garden Court Chambers	-	4000	4000
Rosa UK	-	60629	60629
Anonymous	-	15000	15000
Equality & Human Rights Commission	-	731	731
Sundry grants & donations	<u>73685</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73685</u>
	<u>73685</u>	<u>100360</u>	<u>174045</u>

3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Closing balance £
Restricted funds				
Support & development	<u>-</u>	<u>100360</u>	<u>(37971)</u>	<u>62389</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>100360</u>	<u>(37971)</u>	<u>62389</u>
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	<u>163653</u>	<u>83946</u>	<u>(119886)</u>	<u>127713</u>
	<u>163653</u>	<u>83946</u>	<u>(119886)</u>	<u>127713</u>

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4. Creditors

	£
Independent examination	600
	<u>600</u>

5. Client account

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Closing balance £
Client account	-	12519	(1444)	11075
	<u>-</u>	<u>12519</u>	<u>(1444)</u>	<u>11075</u>

6. Support in Kind

Garden Court Chambers - Training

Rooms Irwin Mitchell - Training rooms

Rights of Women - Meeting rooms

Mayer Brown - Pro-bono real estate advice

7. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

8. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.