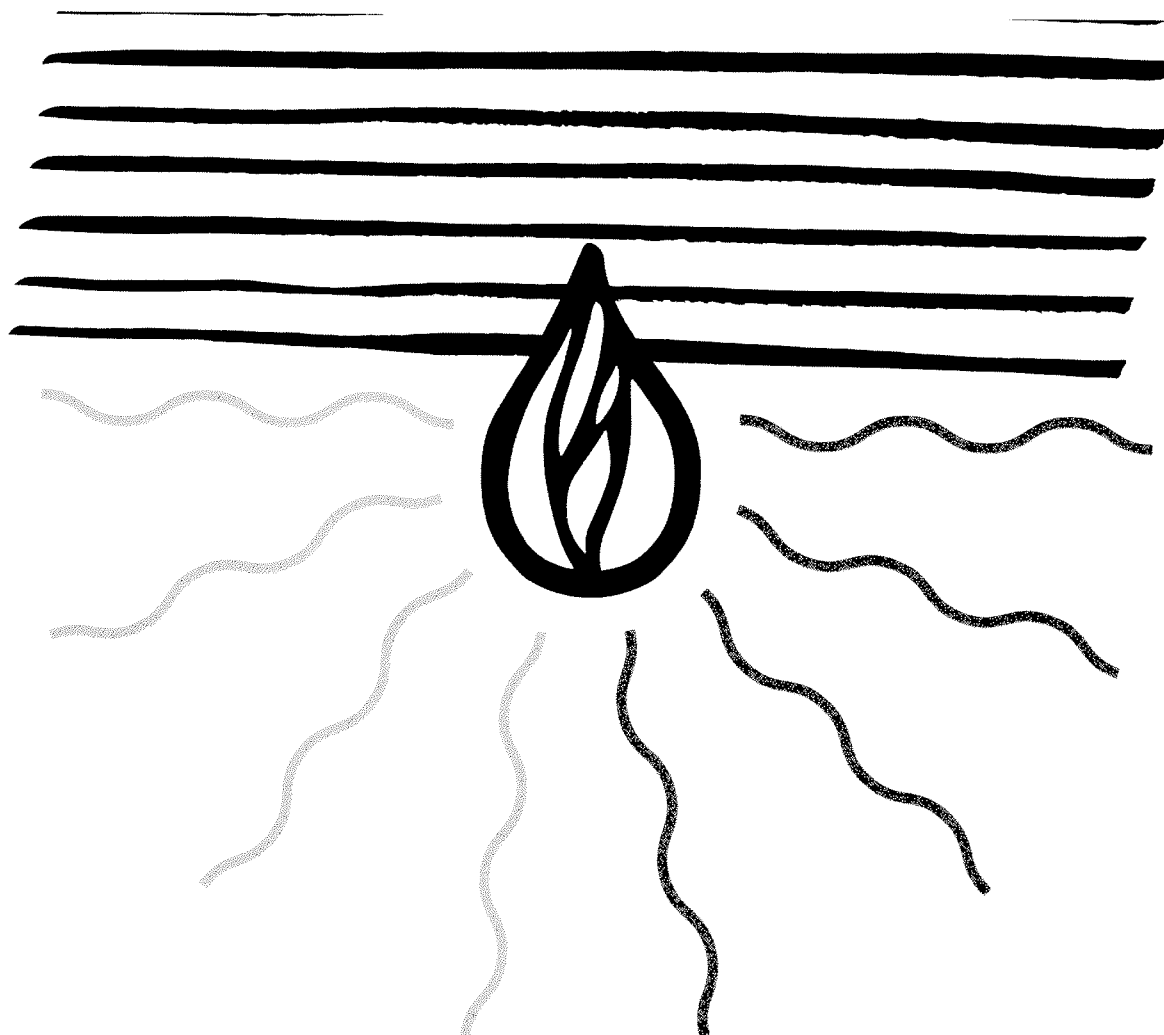


Migrant & Asylum Seeker Solidarity & Action



Annual Report

April 2018 - March 2019

ABOUT MASS ACTION

MASS Action is registered CIO that believes in collective action and solidarity for change. Central to our work is centring the needs of migrants and asylum seekers by providing financial and logistical support through collaborations with partner projects that align with our core values. A big part of this is that projects are led by, or aim to centre and amplify the voices of those with lived experience of migration and asylum systems. We are proud to collaborate with projects that recognize the importance of community, building non-hierarchical relations and maintaining financial transparency. As well as our work with partner projects, a priority for the association is advocating for political change and the free movement of people.

OUR MISSION

To support grassroots projects that provide dignified and sustainable initiatives for migrants and asylum seekers. To increase awareness of the social, economic, political and ecological factors which cause migration thereby challenging negative public perceptions on the movement of people.

CORE VALUES

- Equal rights regardless of legal status, nationality, religion, gender, age, sexuality or any other identity marker.
- Honest and dynamic engagement with the communities we work with
- Breaking-down hierarchies that are not just around us but between us
- Financial transparency and efficiency
- Collective action to challenge and overcome violent migration policies and border regimes

HISTORY

MASS Action was founded by nine individuals who felt frustrated by the lack of access to funding for small grassroots initiatives doing impressive work with very little resources. We saw how hard it is to juggle running amazing and impactful projects alongside applying for funding and running social media campaigns. Donors, whether they are individuals making small donations, or big trusts giving out grants, are usually attracted to large scale projects with quantitative results. We can understand this, but we also felt there was a huge need to increase funding for projects that focus on social impact through building relationships and communities. Where small donations have a big impact. We registered with the UK Charities Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2018 and since then have been working with three partner projects to provide funding to sustain their operations as well as logistical support and advice.

Migrant and Asylum Seeker Solidarity and Action
15 Ravensbourne Road, London, SE6 4UU
Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity number: 1177804

ORGANISING STRUCTURE

The nine founding members of the association also made up the initial board of trustees. After our first AGM three trustees stepped down to take on the Strategy and Operations responsibilities of the association. Over the next year we agreed there would be a significant benefit to the organisation to recruit new trustees to replace the majority of founding trustees. This is to do with the realisation that while the founding trustees share a passion and belief for the association and its goals, a diversity of experience and the necessary capacity was lacking. We aspire to have a new board of trustees before the end of 2019.

The following working groups include both members of the trustee board and the operations team. They were formed to create constructive relationships between the board and operations team, where the trustees' experience and knowledge in specific areas can be shared and vice versa.

People and Structure

Responsible for exploring how the operations team can work in an increasingly collaborative way with the board of trustees. This working group works on further defining job roles, to allow for an understanding of who is responsible for what, developing methods for sharing work loads and addressing capacity of individuals.

Outreach and engagement

This working group supports the goal of increasing our reach on social media. This directly benefits our fundraising ability as well as our goal of advocacy. They have identified the need for consistency in our external communication and are working on developing guidelines for social media and other communication.

Fundraising

Expanding our fundraising strategy, promoting the use of our fundraising toolkit and reflecting on activities to document what works well and what doesn't. This working group also pursues the goal of researching funding streams such as grants that align with our values and that we are eligible for.

Projects

The projects working group focuses on improving monitoring & evaluation frameworks & systems.

MEETING OUR OBJECTIVES

Our idea for bringing about change is based on an understanding that we need financial redistribution to projects who are facilitating sustainable and dignified initiatives as well as collective action against violent migration policies. This was central to the inception of the association, we wanted to advocate for a new way of viewing the movement of people to challenge and overcome negative discourse. In this past year of operations we have prioritised fundraising to

provide stability for partner projects. In 2019 - 2020 we want to step up our advocacy and continue the fight for mobility justice.

We achieve our objectives in three ways:

- First, by granting money to and fundraising on behalf of our partners. We are also beginning to facilitate fundraisers put on by our partners, as well as interested third parties. This will include direct collaboration, giving advice on planning and executing successful fundraisers, and making sure fundraisers reach as wide an audience as possible.
- Second, MASS Action raises awareness of issues around migration more broadly. We do this with regular posts on Facebook and Instagram, sharing reliable news sources and publishing longer informative social media posts that reflect the reality of being a migrant or asylum seeker in the UK or more generally in Europe.
- Finally, we connect people working in migration across the globe in order to build stronger alliances and share skills around how to organize. As part of this work, we plan to facilitate bi-annual workshops and networking days for activists working in the field of migration. We feel it is more crucial than ever to build networks of solidarity and strategies of resistance, and we look forward to having the capacity and means to organise several of these events a year.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the charity commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the trust's aims and objective in planning future activities.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

We currently do not accept unsolicited grant applications. Our project coordinator on the ground assesses projects which carry out work in line with our values and such projects are invited to partner with us. The first step of this partnership is the signing of a 'Memorandum of Understanding'. This document outlines the nature of our relationship, stating that MASS Action now agrees to fundraise on behalf of the project and any funds raised will go to a restricted pot of funding which only this project can apply for. The project must then complete a grant application which is presented to the trustees for approval. The trustees then assess if the proposal can be approved according to our grant decision making policy. If the grant is approved the project is then required to sign a grant agreement policy which outlines the grant amount, purpose, period and reporting obligations, as well as other terms. The grantee then sends timely reports to the project coordinator in accordance with the grant agreement policy. These reports are combined to create an impact report which is presented to the trustees for review at the AGM. Monitoring of each project is partner-specific and varies in format, but each is comprised of both financial and narrative reporting. Projects each complete a final impact report at the end of the grant period; as we are still in the first year of operations, none of the projects we have funded have reached the end of their grant period. If the grant application is not accepted by the trustees the project must complete a

new application and until an agreement is reached between the project and MASS Action the funds will not be released. If no agreement can be reached these funds will be transferred into the unrestricted pot.

Funds which are not raised specifically for a project MASS Action is partnered with are kept in an unrestricted pot. These funds cover any overheads we have (see financial reporting for breakdown), as well as being available for any of our partner projects to apply for. Within the next two years we will begin accepting unsolicited applications from projects; funds from the unrestricted pot will be used for these grants. Upon acceptance of these grants, projects are required to partner with MASS Action and complete all the steps listed above for partner projects.

PROJECT FOCUS

In our first year of operations we partnered with three fantastic projects that operate in Athens, Greece. What is important to us, is that although each of these projects have different goals, they all share our values of solidarity.

Khora

Khora is a self-organised collective of individuals, registered as an association in Athens, Greece. It began in 2016 when a group of volunteers working in Lesbos came to Athens and opened a community centre. Contained within an eight-story building, Khora Community Centre provided a vast array of services that aimed to meet both short and long-term needs of migrants, asylum seekers and locals in Athens. This included food, clothing, education, legal support, information sharing and signposting, safe spaces for children and women, creative workshops and a whole host of other events. More than anything, what Khora offered was a feeling of community, a friendly environment that welcomed everyone, without judgement or labels. Sadly the centre had to close down in 2018 due to building licencing issues. The Khora Freeshop, offering dignified clothing distribution and The Khora Legal Team, have successfully continued their operations since then in separate buildings. The Khora team are now looking for a new building to open a social kitchen and cafe to offer hot nutritious meals and a comfortable space to hang-out, foster relationships and build communities.

Mazi Housing Project

Mazi is a housing project which provides a home to six displaced young men who are in Athens on their own and were previously homeless. Mazi, meaning together in Greek, speaks to the sense of community and support central to the initiative. The project is aimed at a group that is often ignored by both governments and NGOs: young men. The project challenges cycles of dependency by empowering residents to overcome social exclusion through holistic and collaborative support. Without housing in Greece you cannot access vital services including non-emergency health care, registered employment, financial support, a bank account, public education, or even a public transport card. While minors are given a certain amount of support, many young individuals find themselves in a highly vulnerable position when they turn eighteen and are suddenly no longer able to access this support. A safe, secure house can provide protection not only from exposure to crime,

violence, drug abuse and sexual exploitation whilst living on the streets but also allows these young men to go to classes, get a job, receive financial support and build basic autonomy.

Kids Klub

Kids Klub creates safe play and learning spaces inside informal living spaces in Athens. Kids Klub consists of a team of volunteers who run daily play and learning sessions for children. The aim of Kids Klub is to provide spaces (classrooms, family spaces, outside playgrounds), for children and their parents to come to play and to learn. Through the long term connections made within these family spaces, a supportive community of parents, children and volunteers is established.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- This first year we successfully raised funds for 3 projects, and completed the grant process with one project.
- The generosity of volunteers and supporters of MASS Action, who on top of making individual donations have supported us to hold 4 fundraising events
- All in all, we raised a total of £24,808.34. Of these funds, we have paid out £20,543.02 to our partner project, a percentage of 82.8%

Despite the challenges of a politically and socially turbulent environment, MASS Action has had a positive and busy first year of operations. We have largely focused our energy on structuring how we organise internally, as well as making a website, launching social media and building awareness of what MASS Action is and what we stand for. The past year has also involved developing a relationship with our three partner projects.

To support our launch in 2018, we set out to raise awareness of MASS Action to help drive sustainable and long-term engagement amongst new and existing supporters. To facilitate this, we maintained a strong online presence by launching a website and social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram. At the time of reporting we find ourselves with over 800 followers on Facebook and 190 followers on Instagram.

Since our website and social media platforms went live in April 2018, we have grown our following and reach consistently. We have developed our association's identity in line with the values we share. Central to this identity (and our name) has been challenging the legal categories that dictate who is deserving of support. We have rejected narratives that demonise people on the move and attempt to quantify their 'refugee-ness'. Instead we have aimed to provide up-to-date and reliable information on the movement of people. Through our online advocacy we have sought to make it clear why we believe some policies and practices to be unacceptable, and which institutions we believe should take responsibility.

As an organisation, we have grown to a team of volunteers comprising of six members. We are extremely grateful to all our volunteers, donors, supporters and partner organisations for their part in ensuring that MASS Action has been able to carry out what it set out to do.

We have also used our platform to amplify the voices of activist groups and organisations working in the same field, especially for examples of solidarity that center migrant and asylum seeker voices. We look forward to fostering collaborations between us and other migrant solidarity groups working in the UK and internationally.

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking to the future, we will continue to further the impactful work of MASS Action, by building on the successes of all the activities carried out this year and incorporating key learnings. To enable us to do so, we have summarised the main steps we will be taking to enable us to sustainably grow in five categories:

People and Structure

- Introduce clearly defined job roles for all volunteers to ensure ownership and accountability for responsibilities.
- Recruiting new trustees with relevant experience and energy for growing the organisation.
- Introduce the role of a Strategy & Operation Coordinator to have visibility across all operational activities.
- Introduce a stipend for 1-2 volunteers as a means to offer financial support and mitigate against volunteer burnout. This will be achieved by applying for a grant that covers operational costs for charities. Longer-term we intend to move towards being able to financially remunerate volunteers for their time and support.
- Ensure that overhead costs are covered through funds raised as opposed to volunteers paying out of pocket.
- Introduce working groups which includes Trustees and Strategy & Operations team members to facilitate cross-working and sharing of expertise and facilitate volunteer development.
- Improve communication between Trustees and Strategy & Operations team by introducing the role of Official Trustee Contact.
- Introduce Slack as a platform to facilitate collaboration, increase transparency and drive efficient ways of working.

Outreach & Engagement

- Identify and define key audience segments that we will aim to engage.
- Continue to take a lead on advocacy and awareness raising to challenge negative public sentiment towards migration.

- Share regular blog posts and other information to help with awareness raising and information sharing.
- Use insights from digital analytics to improve performance across social media channels.
- Use HootSuite to align activity across social media platforms to drive greater efficiency
- Investigate Search Engine Optimisation opportunities to improve online presence.
- Grow follower base across social media platforms
- Identify new organisations and partners to collaborate with to deliver collective impact and further our reach.

Fundraising

- Achieve an increase in fundraising of at least 20% in year 2.
- Build a fundraising strategy for 2019/20 as part of a 5-year fundraising strategy.
- Ring-fencing a percentage of unrestricted funds to cover any operational expenses, determined by our predicted overhead costs.
- Host 18 events in 2019/20 with collaboration with individuals and groups and continuing to use events as a primary way to drive engagement.
- Develop clear guidance on what organisations we are willing to apply for funding from.
- Applying for grant funding, with the aim of successfully securing 5-7 grants in 2019/20
- Start selling merchandise and set-up an online shop as an alternative source of income.

Projects

- Continue to grow the number of projects we support and diversify the geographical distribution of projects.
- Introduce a robust process for launching open calls and define specific criteria to support with the shortlisting process.
- Introduce a Monitoring & Evaluation framework to support with efficient MEL.
- Continue to work closely with supporting projects beyond fundraising activities.

Advocacy

- Apply for funding for a series of workshop days to to share knowledge and resources between groups campaigning for similar causes, act as an introductory platform for people who want to engage with issues around asylum and the movement of people. The desired outcome is to further cement our networks of solidarity.
- Center people with experience of the asylum system as well Black, Indigenous and People of Colour when organising advocacy events.
- Reach out beyond London to collaborate with a range of groups and organisations. The goal of this is to give space for meeting a wider range of people, to share perspectives and grow collectively.

RISK MANAGEMENT

We have done a good job managing the risks outlined in our initial risk management report. The two greatest risks we saw were inability to hit our goals for fundraising and social media following.

With regard to the former, we have managed to raise enough money to not only cover the costs of our initial partners, but also expand to new projects. The latter risk has remained a challenge, but hasn't been as detrimental to our fundraising as we feared. In response, we have begun a search for someone who can be specifically responsible for managing our social media accounts. We have made the decision to begin diversifying our funding streams, and in 2019/20 will be applying for grants, collaborating with festivals, launching an online shop and seeking ethical corporate partnerships. This is to mitigate the risk of not receiving enough donations from individuals.

A risk that we under-evaluated was the inability of our team members to give as much time as needed to the project. We are going to address staffing needs on a rolling basis in line with secured funding streams and staff availability.

Our big challenge continues to be developing a clear accounting system. In order to ensure we are keeping accurate accounts, in 2019/20 we will be seeking professional support in this area, as well as obtaining accounting software to help organise and automate some of the processes. We will include this expense in our budget, working it into our five-year strategy plan and future grant proposals.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITY

The charity's trustees are responsible for ensuring the preparation of the trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and its compliance to all legal requirements. They are also responsible for safeguarding the reputation of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities. The Trustees take pride in maintaining the integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity website and other social media.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

The raising of a new charity from the ideas and values of our experiences has made a major impression on our year's work. From structuring the interior of the charity to setting up the important foundations that will allow us to successfully further our aims. We have found the process to be both a valuable and challenging learning process. We also believe that through this period we have refined and further understood the specific intention of our group and are now in a position to execute this over the coming years.

In addition, we are satisfied with the financial support provided to our partner projects. Allowing unique and needed approaches in resettlement and community to be actualized. We hope to

further build on the relationships we have already made and continue to support projects in ways that they want and we have the capacity to deliver.

The trustees are content with the financial review that is presented above. Over the year running costs have been kept extremely low in proportion to the money granted out. We hope to continue this theme going forward into the next year, although we understand there will be a necessity to spend more in order to be able to financially support our projects appropriately. Additionally we are happy with the proportion of our outgoings compared with our incomings. Due to our lack of ongoing regular expenditure our need for reserves is low, Again we recognise that this necessity will grow with the development of the charity.

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who has been involved up until now. Especially to the volunteers in the Strategy and Operations team and our partner projects.

Financial Review

	Charity Name		No (if any)		CC16a
	MASS Action				
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
1-Apr-18		31-Mar-19			

Section A

Receipts and payments

	Unrestrict ed funds	Restricted funds	Endowme nt funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Mazi		21,205.02	-	21,205.02	-
Individual Donation	1,700.01	-	-	1,700.01	-
Event	1,803.31	-	-	1,803.31	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	3,503.32	21,205.02	-	24,708.34	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,503.32	21,205.02	-	24,708.34	-
A3 Payments					
Bank fee	40.00	-	-	40.00	-
Fundraising	228.45	-	-	228.45	-
Domain Name	28.40	-	-	28.40	-



Solicitor Fee	880.00	-	-	880.00	-
Project		20,543.02	-	20,543.02	-
Google Fee	12.81	-	-	12.81	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,189.66	20,543.02	-	21,732.68	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	1,190	20,543	-	21,733	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,314	662	-	2,976	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	2,314	662	-	2,976	-

Section B

Statement of assets and liabilities at the

end of the
period

Categories	Details	Unrestrict ed funds	Restricted funds	Endowme nt funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		2,314	662	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,314	662	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestrict ed funds	Restricted funds	Endowme nt funds
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)	
B5 Liabilities				-	
				-	
				-	
				-	
				-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval		
		JANE KILPATRICK	29/01/2020		
		SAMAH AHMED	29/01/2020		