SOHBET SOCIETY

SOHBET SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

A company limited by guarantee without share capital

Registered Charity Number: **1201607**
Registered Company Number: **11613566**

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mustafa Balci		
Temel Bagdat	**Chair**	Appointed 8 January 2025
Serkan Ustundag		Appointed 8 January 2025
Yusuf Kar		Resigned 8 January 2025
Bilal Karaduman		Resigned 12 March 2025

Company Number: **11613566**

Charity Number: **1201607**

Registered Office address

Southgate Office Village, Block E,
286-A Chase Road
London, N14 6HF

Accountants

AA Accountancy Services
244 Chase Road
London
N14 6HH

SOHBET SOCIETY ANNUAL TRUSTEES' REPORT 2025

Advancing the Religion of Islam for the Public Benefit in the UK

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: Sohbet Society

Registered Charity Number: 1201607

Registered Company Number: 11613566

Registered Office: Southgate Office Village, Block E, 286-A Chase Road, London, N14 6HF

Trustees during 2025:

Mustafa Balci

Temel Bagdat (Chair; appointed 8 January 2025)

Serkan Ustundag (appointed 8 January 2025)

Yusuf Kar (resigned 8 January 2025)

Bilal Karaduman (resigned 12 March 2025)

Independent Examiner:

Ayhan Aydemir
AA Accountancy Services,
244 Chase Road, London, N14 6HH

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4. Structure, Governance and Management
5. Challenges, Lessons and Plans for 2026
6. Trustee and Related-Party Disclosures
7. Declaration and Approval



1. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Purposes and Our Approach

Sohbet Society is a registered charity established to advance the religion of Islam for the public benefit.

The charity supports the religious learning and spiritual growth of Muslims in Britain through prayer meetings, religious and study circles, mentoring, lectures, retreats, excursions, outreach activities, social action, public celebrations of Islamic festivals, and the production or distribution of educational material about Islam.

"Sohbet" is a Turkish word meaning to talk, converse, discuss and engage with one another in a friendly, caring, warm and informal manner. Within the work of the charity, sohbet refers particularly to study and discussion circles in which participants explore important questions concerning God, purpose, meaning, faith, religion, morality and society.

The charity seeks to provide a welcoming and constructive environment in which Islamic teachings can be studied and related to the personal, family, moral and social challenges of contemporary life in Britain.

Its activities encourage participants to consider issues such as family relationships, social isolation, prejudice, community division, ethical responsibility and respect for human dignity within an Islamic framework.

Through religious learning, mentoring, collective worship, volunteering, social action and retreats, Sohbet Society aims to help individuals strengthen their faith, moral character and sense of responsibility towards others.

The charity also seeks to promote mutual understanding, solidarity, peaceful coexistence and respectful relations between Muslim communities and wider British society.

Overall, Sohbet Society aims to offer a friendly, positive and constructive expression of Islamic faith that speaks both to the mind and the heart and responds to the personal and social needs of individuals. The trustees believe that this approach nurtures compassion, social responsibility, respect for human diversity and the inherent dignity of every person.

Main Activities Undertaken in 2025

During 2025, Sohbet Society pursued its charitable purpose of advancing the religion of Islam for the public benefit by providing accessible opportunities for religious learning, worship, spiritual development and positive community engagement.

The principal activities undertaken during the year included:

- weekly small-group sohbet study and discussion meetings for men and women;
- one-to-one and group mentoring, including religious, spiritual and pastoral support for participants and sohbet leaders;
- Qur'an reading, recitation, understanding and interpretation sessions;
- collective spiritual readings, supplications and programmes of worship and reflection;
- spiritual retreats, residential programmes and day camps;
- Ramadan, Eid and other special religious-night programmes and public celebrations;
- lectures, seminars and educational programmes relating to Islam, faith, family life, morality and contemporary social issues;
- excursions and social activities supporting fellowship, well-being and positive community relationships;
- outreach, volunteering and social-action activities encouraging service, compassion and responsibility towards others;
- community partnerships and activities promoting mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence;
- the production and distribution of educational material about Islam; and
- fundraising activities undertaken to support the continuation and development of the charity's programmes.

These activities enabled participants to deepen their understanding and practice of Islam, develop supportive relationships, strengthen their moral and spiritual outlook and make a positive contribution to their families, local communities and wider society.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees confirm that, when planning and delivering the charity's activities during 2025, they had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Sohbet Society's activities were intended to advance the religion of Islam for the public benefit by providing opportunities for religious learning, worship, spiritual development, mentoring, positive social relationships and community engagement.

The charity's activities were generally open to women and men, young people and adults who wished to participate, subject to the nature of the programme, safeguarding requirements, suitability of the activity and capacity of the venue.

The charity did not operate its activities exclusively for a closed membership group, and requests to participate from interested beneficiaries were welcomed wherever places were available.

The charity's regular activities, including weekly sohbet meetings, Qur'an lessons, mentoring sessions, lectures and collective spiritual-reading programmes, were provided free of charge.

For retreats, residential camps and other programmes involving accommodation, catering, transport or venue costs, participants were invited, where appropriate, to make voluntary donations towards the costs of the programme. No compulsory payment was required as a condition of participation.

Participants and supporters who wished to do so were also able to make additional donations to help sponsor individuals who might otherwise experience financial difficulty in attending.

Where elderly participants, disabled participants or individuals experiencing transport or other practical difficulties requested assistance, local volunteers sought to provide reasonable support according to the person's needs and the resources available.

Most activities were communicated through local coordinators, volunteers, community networks, existing participants and online communication channels. Larger programmes and activities with sufficient capacity were made known more widely.

Where venue capacity or practical arrangements limited the number of places available, some smaller programmes were communicated primarily through existing local networks. Requests from other interested beneficiaries were nevertheless considered subject to available places, programme suitability and relevant safeguarding arrangements.

Through these arrangements, the trustees sought to ensure that financial circumstances, age, disability, transport difficulties or lack of an existing connection to the charity did not unnecessarily prevent suitable beneficiaries from taking part.

The trustees are satisfied that the activities undertaken during 2025 furthered the charity's purposes and provided identifiable public benefit through religious learning, spiritual development, supportive relationships, reduced social isolation and positive engagement with the wider community.

How Activities Were Planned and Monitored

The trustees provided overall strategic oversight of the charity and agreed its main priorities for the year.

Activities were planned in consultation with regional and local outreach coordinators, programme leaders, sohbet leaders and volunteers, taking account of the religious, spiritual and community needs identified in each location.

Information about activities delivered across the charity's different locations was collected through periodic reports completed by outreach coordinators. These coordinators included both employed staff and volunteers.

Reports included information about programmes delivered, participation levels, local needs, operational matters and issues requiring further consideration.

Delivery and progress were also reviewed through regular monthly regional meetings. Outreach coordinators and programme leaders provided updates on activities carried out in their respective locations. At least one trustee attended these meetings, enabling trustees to receive direct information, ask questions and follow up on matters requiring attention.

Trustees and other representatives also attended selected local programmes and made periodic visits to different locations.

Information arising from regional meetings, activity reports, programme visits and ongoing communication was reported to the Board of Trustees.

The Board held three formal trustee meetings during 2025, at which trustees reviewed activities, considered progress against agreed priorities and discussed emerging needs, concerns and areas for improvement.

Formal written feedback was generally collected following retreats, residential camps and selected larger programmes.

For regular sohbet groups and other local activities, feedback was mainly obtained through ongoing communication with outreach coordinators and local volunteer coordinators who maintained regular contact with participants.

Participants were encouraged to share suggestions, recommendations, concerns or complaints. Relevant feedback was communicated to programme leaders and coordinators and, where appropriate, brought to the trustees.

Contribution Made by Volunteers

Volunteers made a substantial and essential contribution to Sohbet Society's work during 2025.

The charity was supported by 57 active volunteers, comprising 31 men and 26 women, working across 32 locations in the United Kingdom.

Each volunteer contributed approximately four to eight hours per week. Based on their usual level of involvement throughout the year, this represents an estimated total of more than 10,000 volunteer hours during 2025.

As complete individual timesheets were not maintained, this figure is a reasonable estimate rather than an exact total.

Volunteer responsibilities included:

- identifying local religious, spiritual and community needs;
- helping to plan and organise weekly sohbet groups and other programmes;
- coordinating venues, speakers, hospitality, transport and practical arrangements;
- encouraging participation and maintaining contact with beneficiaries;
- supporting elderly participants and others requiring practical assistance;
- monitoring whether planned activities were delivered;
- collecting suggestions, concerns and feedback following programmes; and
- communicating relevant information to outreach coordinators, programme leaders and trustees.

Volunteers were therefore involved not only in practical delivery but also in the planning, monitoring and improvement of the charity's work.

The charity's active volunteer workforce was substantially larger than its paid staff team. Their contribution enabled Sohbet Society to operate across 32 locations, maintain regular contact with beneficiaries and provide most of its religious learning and spiritual development activities free of charge.

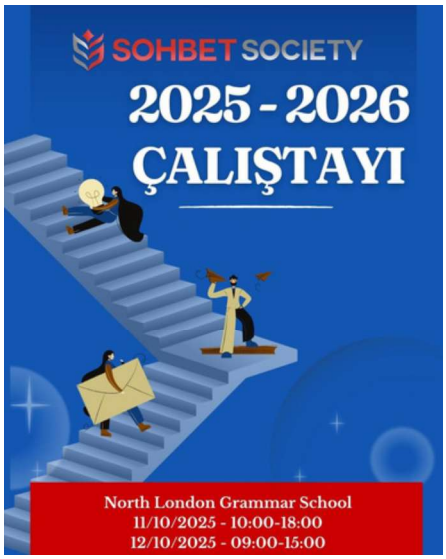
Volunteer Training and Development

The charity supported volunteers through training, guidance, experience-sharing and regular communication.

A two-day workshop was held at North London Grammar School on 11 and 12 October 2025. The workshop brought together Sohbet Society directors and representatives from different locations across Britain.







The programme included presentations and discussions on:

- effective delivery of sohbet programmes;
- qualities and responsibilities of sohbet leaders;
- participant engagement and follow-up;
- programme continuity;
- recruitment, development and motivation of local volunteers;
- communication between locations;
- financial sustainability; and
- sharing good practice.

Participants discussed local difficulties, successful examples and possible solutions through interactive discussions and round-table sessions.

In addition to the annual workshop, volunteers received monthly and periodic guidance through online meetings. These sessions covered upcoming programmes, practical matters requiring particular attention, appropriate support for elderly participants, safeguarding responsibilities, confidentiality and GDPR requirements.

The trustees recognise that the scale and continuity of the charity's activities would not have been possible without the time, commitment, skills and local knowledge contributed by volunteers.



2. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

A. Sohbet Groups and Mentoring

Sohbet Groups

Sohbet groups remained at the centre of the charity's work throughout 2025.



Regular small-group meetings provided a welcoming, supportive and constructive environment in which participants could study religious texts, reflect on faith, discuss questions relating to God, purpose, morality and society, and support one another in their religious and spiritual development.

During the year, the charity maintained sohbet activities across 32 locations in the United Kingdom.

The number of men's sohbet groups increased from 124 in 2024 to 137 in 2025, while the number of women's groups increased from 103 to 119.

This brought the total number of regular sohbet groups to 256, representing an overall increase of approximately 12.8% compared with the previous year.



Measure	2024 Reported	2025 Result	Change / Note
Men's sohbet groups	124	137	Increase of 10.5%
Women's sohbet groups	103	119	Increase of 15.5%
Total sohbet groups	**227**	**256**	**Net increase of 29 groups / 12.8%**
Locations covered	Not reported	32	Across the United Kingdom
Individual participants	956	2,234	Not directly comparable because of incomplete 2024 data

The 2025 individual-participant figure comprises 1,149 men and 1,085 women, with each person counted once.

The 2024 participant figure is not directly comparable because data collection for that year was incomplete. No percentage increase in individual participants has therefore been presented.

Additional Sohbet and Development Programmes

In addition to regular weekly sohbet groups, Sohbet Society delivered supplementary programmes to strengthen religious learning, family development, the quality and continuity of sohbet activities and cooperation between locations.

These included a 15-week Sunday-evening family and child development programme, involving 65 recorded participants.

The two-day national workshop on 11 and 12 October also supported the development of sohbet leaders, outreach coordinators and local volunteers by enabling representatives from different locations to share experience, discuss common challenges and strengthen communication.

Monthly and periodic online guidance and development meetings were held for outreach coordinators, sohbet leaders and volunteers.



Outcomes and Public Benefit

Regular sohbet groups provided participants with continuing opportunities to study Islamic teachings, reflect on faith and worship, and discuss personal, family, moral and social matters within a supportive environment.

Qualitative feedback received during the year indicated that the groups helped participants maintain regular religious learning, develop supportive local relationships and remain connected with others in their communities.

They also encouraged mutual assistance, volunteering and a greater sense of responsibility towards family, community and wider society.

The increase in the number of groups, together with continued participation across the charity's locations, was considered by the trustees to be a positive indication of ongoing demand for accessible religious learning and spiritual-development activities.

Most feedback during 2025 was gathered through ongoing verbal communication rather than formal written surveys. The trustees have therefore treated this evidence as qualitative feedback rather than as formal measurement of individual outcomes.

The trustees are satisfied that the sohbet groups furthered the charity's purpose of advancing the religion of Islam for the public benefit.

Mentoring

Sohbet Society continued to provide personalised religious, spiritual, pastoral and practical support through one-to-one and small-group mentoring.

Outreach coordinators and local volunteer coordinators maintained regular contact with participants. Where appropriate, this included home or workplace visits. Where these locations were not suitable, meetings could take place in cafés, parks or other appropriate settings, as well as by telephone or online.

Mentoring provided opportunities for participants to discuss matters relating to worship, spiritual development, family life, community engagement and practical difficulties in a supportive setting.

The charity did not seek to provide professional therapy, clinical counselling or specialist services beyond its competence.

Where a participant raised a matter requiring expertise or professional assistance beyond the charity's role, the individual was signposted or referred to appropriately experienced or qualified persons, with appropriate follow-up where possible.

Particular attention was given to elderly participants and others experiencing mobility, transport, isolation or practical difficulties.

Support for Sohbet Leaders

The charity also used mentoring and development activities to support sohbet leaders.

This included the Marifetullah Yolcuları regular reading, listening and spiritual-development programme, together with continuing communication and follow-up.

Weekly subjects and supporting materials were provided to help leaders maintain regular and sufficiently structured sohbet programmes.

Leaders were able to discuss difficulties arising in their activities and seek guidance and experience from others.

Where requested, one-to-one Qur'an tuition was facilitated through teachers with appropriate experience in Qur'an reading and recitation.

Periodic annual, residential and day programmes also provided opportunities for development, reflection and experience-sharing.

Directors and staff maintained contact with leaders and volunteers through meetings and, where appropriate, home or workplace visits. They also sought to connect individuals with people, networks and shared experience that could assist with practical, organisational or spiritual needs.

Feedback relating to larger mentoring and development programmes was more likely to be collected in writing, while feedback relating to smaller local or individual support was generally received verbally.

No central numerical total for mentoring has been presented because the nature and frequency of individual support varied and was not recorded consistently on a unique-person basis throughout the year.

B. Retreats, Camps and Excursions

Retreats and Camps

Spiritual retreats and camps remained an important part of the charity's programme during 2025.

Across the charity's locations, local groups generally sought to organise approximately one one-day social and spiritual-development camp each month, subject to local circumstances and available resources.

These programmes combined religious learning, worship and reflection with opportunities for participants to spend time together and strengthen supportive relationships.

During Christmas, Easter and summer holiday periods, groups from several locations also worked together to organise residential programmes using cottages, holiday parks and similar accommodation.

Two larger men's hotel camps were held in London during May 2025 and November 2025. Each programme lasted two days and had approximately 200 participants per day, including both day attendees and participants staying at the hotel. These figures represent approximate daily participation and should not be interpreted as unique individuals across each entire programme.







A three-night residential camp was organised in Oxford for women involved in the charity's activities, with approximately 35 participants.

A four-night residential camp was organised near Newton Abbot for men involved in the charity's activities, with approximately 75 participants.

During the final ten nights of Ramadan, participants who were available also took part in extended spiritual programmes and camps. Arrangements varied by location.

Activities across retreats and camps included Qur'an reading, prayer, talks and sohbet, spiritual readings and supplications, personal reflection, group discussion, shared meals and, where appropriate, outdoor and social activities.

Because local and seasonal programmes varied substantially in format and because attendance was not centrally recorded on a consistent unique-person basis, the charity has not presented a single aggregate annual participation total for all camps and retreats.

Outcomes

These programmes provided participants with structured opportunities to renew spiritual focus, strengthen consistency in worship, deepen Islamic understanding and develop friendships and supportive relationships.

Residential and joint-location programmes also strengthened links between participants from different parts of the country, reduced isolation and encouraged a greater sense of belonging and responsibility.

Written feedback was generally obtained from larger camps and residential programmes, while smaller local programmes relied more heavily on verbal feedback.

Excursions and Organised Visits

Excursions and organised visits complemented the charity's religious-learning activities by creating opportunities for social connection, reflection, well-being and stronger relationships between participants.

Recorded participation increased from 626 in 2024 to 658 in 2025, an overall increase of approximately 5.1%.

Excursion Type	2024 Recorded Participation	2025 Recorded Participation	Change
UK-based excursions and visits	464	481	+3.7%
International excursions	162	177	+9.3%
Total	**626**	**658**	**+5.1%**

These figures represent recorded participation and should not be interpreted as unique individuals, as some participants may have taken part in more than one activity.

Visits Within the United Kingdom

UK-based activities broadly took two forms.

The first involved visits to places of historical, cultural or natural interest.

The second involved organised visits between Sohbet Society participants and volunteers in different locations. Groups, individuals and families travelled to other parts of the country to meet people involved in similar activities, exchange experience and strengthen relationships between local communities.



International Excursions

International excursions also took place during 2025, with 177 recorded participations.

Journeys, destinations and individual participants were not recorded centrally on a consistent basis in 2025, so no further breakdown is presented.

Picnics and Social Activities

Local groups also organised picnics and outdoor social activities.

These varied in format. Some were organised for particular age groups or sohbet groups, while others were broader community picnics in which participants and families were invited to bring food and spend time together.

Neighbouring locations also occasionally arranged joint picnics.

Family and Youth Participation

Family and youth-oriented excursions and social activities provided opportunities for families and younger participants to build friendships and engage positively with others outside regular meeting settings.

Outcomes

Excursions and social activities enabled participants to meet new people and build friendships across different professions, cultures and local communities.

They supported lasting personal connections, reduced loneliness and social isolation, strengthened confidence and belonging, and enabled participants to exchange experience.

Inter-location activities also strengthened relationships between groups and encouraged continuing participation in sohbet, religious learning and other charitable activities.

C. Qur'an Education, Spiritual Readings and Religious Events

Qur'an Education and Spiritual Readings

The charity continued to support participants in developing their relationship with the Qur'an and maintaining regular religious and spiritual reading.

Group and one-to-one support was provided, including assistance from teachers with appropriate experience in Qur'an reading and recitation.

Collective Qur'an khatm programmes and programmes involving supplications and spiritual texts were coordinated through local groups, shared reading arrangements and in-person or online communication.



Activity	2024 Reported	2025 Delivery
Recorded participation in spiritual readings	1,123	1,336
Qur'an khatms	772 completed	884 completed + 302 continuing
Cevşen	23 weeks / 80 participants	24 weeks / 170 participants
Al-Qulub al-Dāria	39 weeks / 108 participants	41 weeks / 120 participants
Celcelutiye	Not separately reported	41 weeks / 60 participants

Some individuals took part in more than one programme. These figures therefore represent recorded participation and should not be added together to give a total number of beneficiaries.

Religious and Spiritual Night Programmes

Religious and spiritual-night programmes provided opportunities for worship, learning, collective prayer, reflection and fellowship.

In 2024, 248 programmes involving 2,931 recorded attendances were reported.

In 2025, this increased to 251 programmes involving 3,461 recorded attendances.

In addition, five specific spiritual day or night programmes were held, involving approximately 130 recorded participants. As some of this participation may already be reflected in the annual totals above, these figures have not been added to them.

Ramadan and Eid Programmes

Ramadan and Eid programmes continued to form a significant part of the charity's religious activities.

Programme	2024	2025
Ramadan and Eid programmes	77	79
Recorded participation	7,712	9,367

Recorded participation increased by approximately 21.46%.

A three-evening online programme relating to Eid al-Adha and the month of Dhul Hijjah was also held with Ismet Macit, involving approximately 70 recorded participants.

As these participants may already be included in the wider Ramadan and Eid total, they have not been added to the aggregate figure.

During the final ten nights of Ramadan, extended worship and spiritual programmes were also organised according to local circumstances.



Outcomes and Public Benefit

These activities supported participants in improving Qur'an reading and recitation, developing more regular religious habits and strengthening their understanding of significant Islamic days and nights.

Collective readings, supplications and religious programmes supported prayer, reflection and spiritual connection and helped participants maintain supportive relationships with others.

One-to-one Qur'an support also enabled participants to receive assistance appropriate to their individual level and pace.

Continued participation in these programmes was regarded by the trustees as a positive qualitative indication of their value, but was not treated as formal impact measurement.

D. Fundraising, Partnerships and Safeguarding

Fundraising

Fundraising during 2025 focused principally on voluntary donations and grant funding to support the charity's religious, educational and community activities.

The independently examined accounts record donations of £141,677 and grant income of £65,835, giving total voluntary income of £207,512. Other incoming resources were £2,815, bringing total income for the year to £210,327.

- Direct fundraising costs for the year were minimal, at £60.
- The trustees are grateful to all donors, supporters and grant funders whose contributions enabled the charity to continue and develop its programmes during the year.

Partnerships and Community Relationships

Sohbet Society continued to develop constructive relationships with other voluntary and community organisations during 2025.

These relationships supported the sharing of experience and good practice, strengthened organisational capacity and created opportunities for joint activities and wider community engagement.

During the year, Sohbet Society maintained a Memorandum of Understanding with VOICES in Britain, a network that brings together voluntary organisations working across Britain.

Through this relationship, the charity participated in a wider environment of cooperation, consultation, experience-sharing and organisational development.

The relationship with VOICES in Britain provided opportunities for participating organisations to learn from one another, share good practice and ideas, benefit from specialist knowledge and training, and explore areas in which joint working could improve the reach and effectiveness of their activities.

Sohbet Society remained responsible for its own governance, decision-making and charitable activities while benefiting from this wider network of cooperation.

Sohbet Society also worked particularly closely with a number of organisations associated with the VOICES in Britain network, including Spring Educational Society, Amity Educational Society and Star Education Society.

Cooperation with these organisations included sharing experience, participation in joint or mutually supported programmes, communication between volunteers and organisers, and collaboration where activities or areas of common interest provided opportunities to work together.

These relationships enabled the charity to draw on a wider range of experience and expertise, reduce unnecessary duplication, strengthen communication between organisations and develop more effective approaches to supporting participants and local communities.

The trustees consider constructive cooperation with other volunteer organisations to be an important part of the charity's wider community relationships.

Safeguarding, Welfare and Volunteer Oversight

Sohbet Society sought to ensure that its activities were delivered in a safe, respectful and supportive environment for participants, volunteers and staff.

During 2025, the charity maintained a formal Safeguarding Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees on 1 October 2025.

The policy sets out the charity's responsibilities relating to safeguarding and welfare and applies to trustees, staff, volunteers, members and contractors working on behalf of the charity.

The policy provides for the appointment of a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSL, who act as points of contact for safeguarding matters and are responsible for appropriate recording, referral and liaison with statutory agencies where necessary.

The policy also sets out requirements and expectations relating to role-appropriate DBS checks, safeguarding induction and refresher training, confidentiality, secure record keeping, referral procedures and appropriate conduct.

Volunteers were supported through role guidance, regular communication, periodic meetings and appropriate oversight by outreach coordinators, programme leaders and trustees.

Guidance provided to volunteers during the year included safeguarding responsibilities, confidentiality, appropriate conduct and the importance of complying with data-protection and GDPR requirements.

The charity's wider volunteer contribution, including numbers, estimated hours and development activities, is described earlier in this report and is not repeated here.

Local volunteers, sohbet leaders and outreach coordinators maintained regular contact with participants and sought to respond appropriately where welfare or practical needs were identified.

Particular consideration was given to elderly participants and others experiencing mobility, transport, isolation or other practical difficulties.

Where individuals requested assistance, volunteers sought to provide reasonable support within the charity's resources.

Where a matter required knowledge, experience or professional support beyond the role or competence of charity staff or volunteers, individuals were signposted or referred to appropriately experienced or qualified persons.

Participants were encouraged to communicate concerns, requests, suggestions or complaints through sohbet leaders, outreach coordinators and local volunteer coordinators.

The trustees continued to regard safeguarding, participant welfare, confidentiality and responsible volunteer oversight as important elements of safe and effective delivery.

3. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The figures in this section are taken from the charity's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Measure	2024 Comparator	2025 Result
Total income	**£140,052**	**£210,327**
Total expenditure	**£107,253**	**£207,612**
Net income / (expenditure)	£32,799	£2,715
Unrestricted funds / net assets at year end	£33,035	£35,750
Restricted funds at year end	£0	£0
Average number of employees	7	11

Total income for 2025 was £210,327, comprising £144,492 of unrestricted income and £65,835 of restricted income. Total expenditure was £207,612, comprising £141,777 of unrestricted expenditure and £65,835 of restricted expenditure. The resulting net movement in funds for the year was a surplus of £2,715.

- The principal source of income was voluntary income of £207,512. This comprised donations of £141,677 and grants of £65,835. Other incoming resources were £2,815. The accounts record no income from trading activities, investment income or charitable-activity income during the year.
- Expenditure on charitable activities was £192,547 and governance costs were £15,065. Direct costs included staff-related expenditure, meeting expenses, premises costs, volunteer expenses, professional fees, grant giving and other programme and administrative costs as set out in the notes to the accounts.
- Wages and salaries, including amounts allocated to governance, were £134,560 and social security costs were £6,462. The average monthly number of employees during 2025 was 11, compared with 7 in 2024.
- At 31 December 2025, tangible fixed assets were £1,049. Current assets were £34,701, comprising debtors of £12,739 (gift aid and donation income receivable) and cash at bank and in hand of £21,962. The accounts show no creditors falling due within one year or after more than one year.

- Total net assets at the year end were £35,750, all of which were unrestricted funds. Restricted income of £65,835 was fully applied during the year, leaving restricted funds of £0 at 31 December 2025.
- Compared with 2024, the charity received a higher level of donations and grant income and incurred substantially higher charitable expenditure. This reflects the wider scale of programme delivery during 2025 and the increase in the average number of employees. The charity nevertheless ended the year with a positive net movement in funds of £2,715.

Reserves and Going Concern

The trustees' policy is to hold free reserves equivalent to approximately four months of expenditure, which is around £69,000 on the basis of 2025 expenditure. At 31 December 2025, unrestricted funds were £35,750 and free reserves, after excluding tangible fixed assets of £1,049, were £34,701.

Free reserves therefore represented approximately two months of expenditure, below the trustees' four-month target. Of this amount, £21,962 was held as cash and £12,739 as debtors. To move towards the target, the trustees intend to increase grant applications and broaden the charity's funding base, as set out in the plans for 2026 in section 5, while keeping reserves, income and commitments under regular review.

- The 2025 accounts have been prepared on a going-concern basis. In accordance with the accounting policy, the trustees consider the charity's available resources and foreseeable obligations for at least twelve months from the date on which the accounts are authorised for issue. On that basis, the trustees consider it appropriate for the accounts to continue to be prepared on a going-concern basis.

Principal Risks and Risk Management

The trustees reviewed the principal risks facing the charity during 2025 and considered the controls required to manage them in a proportional manner.

Financial sustainability remains an important risk because the charity relies substantially on voluntary income and grants. The trustees monitor income, expenditure, reserves and programme commitments and seek to broaden the funding base through appropriate donations and grant opportunities.

- Safeguarding and participant welfare are managed through the charity's Safeguarding Policy, designated safeguarding responsibilities, role-appropriate DBS checks, guidance and training, appropriate referral procedures and trustee oversight. Particular attention is given to participants who may require additional practical support.
- Data protection, confidentiality and record keeping are addressed through guidance to staff and volunteers, secure handling of information and ongoing attention to GDPR responsibilities. Volunteer and staff capacity is supported through regular communication, development meetings, role guidance and oversight by outreach coordinators, programme leaders and trustees.
- Regulatory, governance and reputational risks are managed through trustee oversight, formal Board meetings, review of activities and finances, use of professional accountancy support and attention to the charity's governing document and regulatory obligations. Venue, event and health-and-safety risks are considered as part of programme planning, including venue suitability, capacity, practical arrangements and safeguarding requirements.
- The trustees recognise that risk management is an ongoing process and will continue to review significant risks and the effectiveness of the charity's controls as its activities develop.

4. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Sohbet Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The trustees are also directors of the charitable company and are responsible for the overall strategic direction, governance and oversight of the charity.

Trustees are appointed according to the needs of the organisation.

Potential trustees may be recommended by existing trustees and their appointments are formally considered and approved by the Board.

In making appointments, the Board seeks individuals whose experience, skills and understanding can contribute to the effective governance and development of the charity.

During 2025, Serkan Ustundag and Temel Bagdat were appointed as trustees on 8 January 2025.

Day-to-day activities are carried out by the charity's staff, outreach coordinators and volunteers within their respective areas of responsibility.

The trustees remain actively involved in oversight, receive information about activities and developments, follow the charity's operations and provide direction on significant matters and decisions.

Operational information and feedback are communicated to the trustees through staff, outreach coordinators, programme leaders and volunteers.

This enables the Board to remain informed about delivery of activities, emerging needs and organisational priorities.

The Board held three formal trustee meetings during 2025, in addition to the trustees' involvement in regional meetings, visits, communication with staff and volunteers, and ongoing oversight of the charity's activities.

The trustees continue to have responsibility for ensuring that the charity is managed in accordance with its charitable objects, governing document and relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

5. CHALLENGES, LESSONS AND PLANS FOR 2026

During 2025, the charity continued to develop its activities across a wide network of locations.

The main areas requiring continuing attention included maintaining consistency and quality across local programmes, supporting the capacity and development of volunteers and sohbet leaders, improving the collection and consistency of participation and impact data, and maintaining sufficient financial resources to sustain and develop charitable activities.

The trustees continued to respond to these needs through regular communication with outreach coordinators and local volunteers, periodic development meetings, programme monitoring, participant feedback and greater coordination between locations.

For 2026, the charity intends to build on progress made during 2025 and focus particularly on the following priorities:

- improving the consistency, quality and continuity of local sohbet and religious-learning activities;
- continuing the development and mentoring of sohbet leaders, outreach coordinators and volunteers;
- strengthening the collection and quality of attendance, beneficiary and impact information;
- maintaining appropriate safeguarding, welfare, confidentiality and governance arrangements;
- strengthening communication and cooperation between different locations;
- continuing to provide accessible religious, spiritual and social activities for participants and families;
- increasing efforts to identify and apply for suitable grants and other appropriate sources of charitable funding;
- broadening and strengthening the charity's funding base in order to improve financial resilience; and
- seeking to ensure that existing activities can continue sustainably while allowing appropriate opportunities for future development.

The trustees recognise that stronger and more diverse sources of funding will be important to the long-term sustainability of the charity's activities.

During 2026, greater attention will therefore be given to grant opportunities, appropriate funding applications and the development of sustainable income streams that are consistent with the charity's purposes and values.

These priorities are intended to support continued delivery of existing activities while strengthening organisational capacity, financial sustainability and the charity's ability to respond to the needs of participants and local communities.



6. TRUSTEE AND RELATED-PARTY DISCLOSURES

No trustee received any remuneration for acting as a trustee during 2025.

The trustees also did not claim or receive reimbursement for trustee expenses during the year.

Their oversight and governance responsibilities were carried out on a wholly voluntary basis.

There were no related-party transactions during 2025.

7. DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

The company has taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing this report.

The trustees declare that they have approved this Trustees' Annual Report, including the Directors' Report.

Trustees/directors approving this report:

Temel Bagdat - Chair / Trustee Signature: Temel Bagdat

Mustafa Balci - Trustee Signature:

Serkan Ustundag - Trustee Signature:

Date of approval: 29 September 2026

SOHBET SOCIETY
Registered Charity Number: 1201607
Registered Company Number: 11613566

SOHBET SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOHBET SOCIETY

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sohbet Society (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 35 to 45.

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 charity'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 material 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 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.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ayhan Aydemir
Chartered Certified Accountant
AA Accountancy Services
244 Chase Road, London, N14 6HH

SOHBET SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Incorporating income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
INCOME AND EXPENDITURES					
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary income	2	141677	65835	207,512	136,952
Activities for generating funds	3	0	0	0	2380
Investment income	4	0	0	0	0
Income from charitable activities	5	0	0	0	0
Other income	6	2815	-	2815	720
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		144492	65835	210327	140052
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
charitable Activities	7	126712	65835	192547	96933
Governance Costs	8	15065	0	15065	10320
Other resources expended	9	0	0	0	0
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	11	141777	65835	207612	107253
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES					
before transfers	**21**	2715	0	2715	32799
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		2715	0	2715	32799
Total Funds at 1 January 2025		33035	0	33035	236
Prior Year Adjustment (Note 20)		0	0	0	0
Total Funds at 31 DECEMBER 2025		35750	0	35750	33035

The notes on pages 37 to 45 form part of these accounts.

SOHBET SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
FIXED ASSETS		£	£
Tangible assets	15	1049	847
Programme related investments	**16**	0	0
		1049	847
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	**17**	12739	0
Cash at bank and in hand		21962	33403
		34701	33403
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	**18**	0	-1215
Net current assets / (liabilities)		34701	32188
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due more than one year	**19**	0	0
Total assets less current liabilities		35750	33035
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	**21**	0	0
Unrestricted funds	**21**	35750	33035
		35750	33035

For the year ending 31 December 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The notes on pages 37 to 45 form part of these accounts.
Approved by the Board of Trustees on 29 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by Mustafa BALCI, Trustee.



Mustafa BALCI
Trustee

SOHBET SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2nd edition, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. Sohbet Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going Concern and Fund accounting

Accounts have been prepared on going concern basis. Trustees assess the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of twelve months from the date the accounts are authorised for issue including available resources, and foreseeable obligations.

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.

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 raising and 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.3 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of financial activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donated services or facilities, which comprise donated services, are included in income at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable No income is recognised where there is no financial cost borne by a third party.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled, Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

SOHBET SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £*100* 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 bases:

Fixtures and fittings	5% reducing balance

1.6 Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date.
Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction.
Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Donations	141677	0	141677	106452
Grants		65835	65835	30500
Voluntary Income	141677	65835	207512	136952

3. TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Charity trading income				
Charity trading income-Domestic	0	-	0	2380
Net income from trading activities	0	0	0	2380

SOHBET SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Rental Income		0	0	0

5. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Educational Activities		0	0	0

6. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Other incoming resources	2815	0	2815	720

7. EXPENDITURE BY CHARITABLE ACTIVITY

SUMMARY BY FUND TYPE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Direct costs	126712	65835	192547	96933
Governance costs	15065		15065	10320
	141777	65835	207612	107253

SUMMARY BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

	Staff Costs £	Other Costs £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Charitable activities	128269	64278	192547	96933
Support Costs (Governance)	14102	963	15065	10320
	142371	65241	207612	107253

SOHBET SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

8. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Governance- Accountants fees	750		750	600
Governance expense - computer expenses	13		13	46
Governance expense - wages and salaries	13456		13456	9213
Governance expense - NI	646		646	261
Governance - depreciation - tangible fixed assets	200		200	200
	15065	0	15065	10320

9. OTHER RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Loss/(profit) on disposal of fixed asset	0	0	0	0

10. DIRECT COSTS

	Basis of Allocation	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Charitable Contribution	Direct			0	6549
Volunteer expenses	Direct	6837		6837	0
Premises Costs	Direct	8191		8191	0
Insurance	Direct	403		403	0
Raising funds	Direct	60		60	68
Professional fees	Direct	4500		4500	0
Printing, Postage and Stationery	Direct	1490		1490	250
Office & General Administrative Expenses	Direct	3820		3820	0
Telephone	Direct	147		147	0
Bank Charges	Direct	102		102	188
Subscriptions	Direct	455		455	320
Miscellaneous	Direct			0	35
Advertising	Direct	2195		2195	723
Meeting expenses	Direct	30013		30013	1520
Computer costs	Direct	115		115	410
Wages and salaries	Direct	55269	65835	121104	84106
Employer NI contributions	Direct	5816		5816	705
Pension	Direct	1349		1349	459
Grant giving	Direct	5950		5950	1600
		126712	65835	192547	96933

SOHBET SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

11. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

	Staff Costs	Depreciation	Other Costs	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	128269	0	64278	192547	96933
Investment	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	128269	0	64278	192547	96933
Governance	14102	200	763	15065	10320
Other costs					
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	0	0	0	0	0
	142371	200	65041	207612	107253

12. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken Directly	Support Costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	192547	0	192547	96933
Charitable Activities Support Costs (Governance costs)	0	15065	15065	10320
Total	192547	15065	207612	107253

13. NET INCOMING RESOURCES

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets: owned by charity	200	200
Auditor's remuneration	0	0
Governance Accountant fees	750	600

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2024 -£NIL).
During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2024 -£NIL).
During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2024 -£NIL).

14. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Total Wages and salaries including in governance costs	134560	93319
Pension Costs	1349	459
Social security costs	6462	966
	142371	94744

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

2025	2024
No.	No.
11	7

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

SOHBET SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	TOTAL
Cost	**£**
At 31.12.24	1047
Additions	402
At 31.12.25	1449
Depreciation	
At 31.12.24	200
charge for period	200
At 31.12.25	400
Net book values	
At 31.12.25	1049
At 31.12.24	847

16. PROGRAMME RELATED INVESTMENT

The charity held no programme related investments during the year (2024: £nil).

SOHBET SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

17. DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Due after more than one year	0	0
Other Debtors	0	0
Due within one year	0	0
Trade debtors	0	0
Other debtors	12739	0
	12739	0

18. CREDITORS: Amount falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans and Overdraft	0	0
Trade creditors	0	0
Other taxation and social security	0	0
Other creditors	0	0
Accruals and deferred income	0	1215
	0	1215

19. CREDITORS: Amount falling due after one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	0	0
Other creditors	0	0
	0	0

SOHBET SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

20. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

There is no prior year adjustment this year

21. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers In/Out £	Carried Forward £
Designated Funds					
General Funds					
General Funds-all funds	33035	144492	(141777)	0	35750
Total Unrestricted funds	33035	144492	(141777)	0	35750
Restricted funds					
Restricted funds-all funds	0	65835	(65835)	0	0
Total of funds	33035	210327	(207612)	0	35750

SUMMARY OF FUNDS

	Restated Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers In/Out £	Carried Forward £
General Funds	33035	144492	(141777)	0	35750
Restricted funds	0	65835	(65835)	0	0
	33035	210327	(207612)	0	35750

SOHBET SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

22. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1049	0	1049	847
Programme related investments	0	0	0	0
Debtors due after more than 1 year	0	0	0	0
Current assets	34701	0	34701	33403
Creditors due within one year	0	0	0	-1215
Creditors due in more than one year	0	0	0	0
	35750	**0**	**35750**	**33035**

23. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There was not any related party transaction with any of the trustees this year and last year.