Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	01	2025		31	12	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name African Association for the Study of Religions

Other names charity is known by AASR

Registered charity number (if any) 1206540

Charity's principal address University of Leeds
School of Philosophy and Religion
Woodhouse lane
LS2 9JT Leeds

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Damaris Parsitau	President		
2	Abel Ugba	Vice President		
3	Benson Igboin	General Secretary		
4	Adriaan van Klinken	Treasurer		
5				
6				
7				
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11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Election by membership

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

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

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

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	For the public benefit the advancement of education, specifically the promotion of excellence in the study of the religions of Africa and its diaspora worldwide and the promotion of research for the public benefit in all aspects of that subject, in the UK and internationally, by means of the arrangement of conferences, symposia and colloquia, the publication of an online journal, and other associated activities.

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

The main activity during the year reported here (2025) was supposed to be our biennial conference at the University of Botswana, scheduled for late July/early August. However, at the request of the IAHR (the umbrella organisation of which AASR is a regional member), this conference was postponed to 2026 in order to avoid a clash with the IAHR Congress, held in Krakow, Poland, in September.
The postponement gave us more time to plan and fundraise for the 2026 conference, together with the local organising committee, while also ensuring a sizeable AASR representation at the IAHR Congress.

In addition, the Association was involved in organising a writing workshop for Africa-based early career researchers, which took place at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, in July 2025, in collaboration with the University of Leeds with funding from the British Academy. The workshop had 14 early-career participants from a range of African countries. They continue to be mentored in the process of revising their papers for publication.

After two years of preparation, the Association relaunched its academic open-access journal, in collaboration with University of Johannesburg Press, under the name *Utambuzi*. Two issues of the journal were published in 2025, under the editorial leadership of Dr Abel Ugba, offering a space for emerging voices of early-career researchers, as well as the contributions of senior scholars in the field, to shape the study of African religions. Fundraising to keep the journal sustainable continued this year.
The Association organised an online event in December 2025, to launch the journal as well as to present and celebrate major academic publications by its members.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

- Ensuring a strong representation of AASR at the IAHR Congress in Krakow, Poland.
- Relaunch of the Association's revised academic journal on a professional open access platform.
- Support and mentorship of early-career researchers, incl. via a writing workshop at the University of Nairobi.
- Stabilisation of membership
- Increased social media activity and profile
- Celebratory December event for/with members
- Planning for the postponed AASR conference (to be held in Botswana, July 2026)

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The Association holds a biannual conference with a budget of roughly £25,000. The aim is to have, as a minimum, enough reserves to cover the costs of the next conference, alongside other commitments in a two-year cycle.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	

Further financial review details (Optional information)

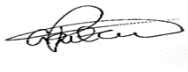
You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about: • the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); • how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; • investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.	

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Damaris Parsitau	Adriaan van Klinken
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	President/Chair	Treasurer
Date	05/10/2026	

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

African Association for the Study of Religions	No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2025	To	Period end date 31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Member subscriptions	£2,941.00	-	-	2,941	2,080
Conference registration fees	£443.00			443	1,274
Donations (general)	£716.00			716	
Earmarked donations - bursary fund		8,577	-	8,577	768
Earmarked donations - journal fund		1,433	-	1,433	4,950
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	**4,100**	**10,010**	**-**	**14,110**	**9,072**
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
NA	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total receipts	**4,100**	**10,010**	**-**	**14,110**	**9,072**
A3 Payments					
Website hosting & maintenance	202	-	-	202	180
Bank charges and financial services	36			36	41
Conference hosting costs	-				767
Utambuzi journal		1,646		1,646	
Bursaries/awards		619	-	619	-
Other charitable activities		-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	**238**	**2,265**	**-**	**2,503**	**988**
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total payments	**238**	**2,265**	**-**	**2,503**	**988**
Net of receipts/(payments)	**3,862**	**7,745**	**-**	**11,607**	**8,084**
A5 Transfers between funds	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
A6 Cash funds last year end	**18,522**	**5,718**	**-**	**24,240**	**17,357**
Cash funds this year end	**22,384**	**13,463**	**-**	**35,847**	**25,441**

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		22,384	13,463	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	22,384	13,463	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Damaris Parsitau	05-Oct-26
	Adriaan van Klinken	05-Oct-26