

Trustees' Annual Report
MENA Statelessness Network (Hawiati)
Reporting Period: 16 August 2024 – 5 April 2025

Section A: Reference and Administration Details

Charity name: *MENA Statelessness Network (Hawiati)*
Charity number: *1209635*

Trustees:
Yoana Kuzmova (Chair)
Bilal Zaghmout (Treasurer)
Allan Leas
Jawad Fairooz
Roua Al Taweel
Abdullah Omar Yassen (resigned from Board of Trustees on 27 Sept 2025, did not take part in reviewing this report)

Section B: Structure, Governance and Management

Hawiati is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a Constitution dated 16 August 2024. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Constitution and are responsible for the overall management and direction of the charity.

During the reporting period, the charity operated as a volunteer-led organisation with no employees. Trustees met periodically and maintained oversight of governance, compliance, and organisational development.

As a newly registered charity, the focus was on establishing core governance systems, documentation practices, and initial risk awareness. Key areas of organisational focus identified during the reporting period included operational capacity, data protection, and governance arrangements appropriate to the charity's advocacy-related activities. The trustees have taken initial steps to address these and will continue to formalise policies in the next reporting period.

The charity began formalising its data protection and information management practices, including by establishing organisational email addresses and a shared information platform through Google for Nonprofits.

Trustees began outreach to pro bono partners at an international law firm for assistance with reporting and financial oversight.

Section C: Objectives and Activities

The charity's objectives are to promote the right to a nationality and the human rights of stateless persons in the Middle East and North Africa through research, advocacy, education, and related activities.

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

During this initial reporting period, activities were primarily preparatory in nature and focused on organisational development and programme design. This included early-stage scoping of a regional legal database on statelessness, preliminary legal and policy research, and engagement with relevant stakeholders and partner organisations including the Middle East Regional Bureau of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Amman, Jordan and the law firm DLA Piper. In addition, toward the end of the reporting period, Hawiati's steering committee coordinators entered into discussions with the Global Campaign on Equal Nationality Rights (GCENR, a project of the Women's Refugee Commission) to co-organize a workshop on equal nationality rights in Damascus, Syria. The purpose of these discussions was to explore engagement with Syrian civil society organisations working on gender equality and nationality rights in the post-transition context in Syria.

These activities were undertaken to establish a foundation for future charitable activities aligned with the charity's objects. No formal grant-funded programmes or service delivery activities took place during this period.

Section D: Achievements and Performance

As this was the charity's first reporting period following registration, the principal achievement was the establishment of a functional governance and operational framework.

The trustees initiated structured preparatory work for future programming, including research planning and conceptual development of a legal database intended to support access to information and advocacy efforts. The charity also continued developing relationships with relevant stakeholders in the statelessness field.

While outputs remained limited due to the absence of funding and operational capacity, this period represents a foundational phase for the charity's future work.

During the reporting period, individuals associated with the charity also established a separate non-profit entity in Norway, the 'MENA Statelessness Network Hawiati', to support regional collaboration and future operational development. While some individuals are involved in both organisations, the Norwegian entity operates separately under Norwegian law and did not receive any funding or resources from the charity during the reporting period.

Section E: Financial Review

The charity did not receive any income nor incur any expenditure during the reporting period. No bank transactions, assets, or liabilities were recorded.

Accordingly, the accounts consist of a nil return (income £0; expenditure £0).

As the charity had no financial activity during the reporting period, no independent examination was required.

The trustees intend to develop a reserves policy once the charity begins to receive funds.

Section F: Future Plans

Following the conclusion of this reporting period, in 2025-26 trustees commenced substantive programmatic work, having secured initial funding and completed organisational setup. Priorities at present include advancing the legal directory for statelessness in the MENA region, formalising internal policies, and expanding partnerships. The trustees recognise the importance of managing potential conflicts of interest and intend to formalise related policies as the charity develops.

Section G: Declaration

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

Name: Yoana Kuzmova
Position: Chair
Date: 5/15//2026