ARTICLE 19

Report and Financial Statements

Company number: 2097222
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SAYER | VINCENT

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Abbreviations

AI	artificial intelligence
ATI	access to information
CoE	Council of Europe
COP30	UN Climate Change conference
DMA	Digital Markets Act
DNS	Domain Name System
EU	European Union
FGPC	Finance and General Purposes Committee
FoE	freedom of expression
HR	human resources
HRD	human rights defender
HRIAs	human rights impact assessments
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
ICC	International Criminal Court
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
LGBTQI+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex
MEL	monitoring, evaluation, and learning
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MIL	media information literacy
MoU	memorandum of understanding
PEBI	Project Ecosystem for Business Intelligence
TCU	Team CommUNITY
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USG	United States Government
WSIS	World Summit on n the Information Society

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees, who act as the Directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Acts and as Trustees for charity law purposes, submit their annual report and the financial statements of ARTICLE 19 for the year. This includes a strategic report.

The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Statement of charitable objectives

In setting ARTICLE 19's programme each year, ARTICLE 19 has regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees review the programmes undertaken by ARTICLE 19 to ensure that they fall within the Charity's charitable objectives and aims.

ARTICLE 19's objectives are to educate the public and protect freedom of expression (FoE), access to information, and related rights throughout the world, particularly as defined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in international and regional human rights law. The organisation works to achieve its charitable objectives in two ways:

1. Through direct delivery, especially in relation to work in areas where it has its own staff; and

2. Through working with partner organisations, including the provision of financial and capacity support.

A note on partnerships

Work carried out by partner organisations is especially useful in jurisdictions where ARTICLE 19 has no established infrastructure for managing staff and operations or where partners provide knowledge and skills that complement ARTICLE 19's own international comparative perspective. Partnership also assists in maximising the number of beneficiaries reached. In turn, partnership has both defined and strengthened ARTICLE 19's effectiveness and legitimacy.

ARTICLE 19 only works with trusted national counterparts with good financial monitoring systems in place. All partners sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ARTICLE 19 on financial procedures to be followed. ARTICLE 19 seeks to conduct a due diligence assessment prior to signing any MoU with implementing partners assessing their governance and internal control measures. Any improvements identified are included in the MoUs and ARTICLE 19 aims to provide organisations with capacity building in those areas, as needed. ARTICLE 19 requires partners to be fully accountable to ARTICLE 19 for their income and expenditure transactions as part of their financial management.

Vision and mission

Since 1987, ARTICLE 19 has been at the forefront of the fight for free expression.

We advocate for people's right to seek, receive, and share ideas. We work alongside communities to defend democracy, resist authoritarianism, and expand participation. We not only monitor violations; we mobilise against them. We are experts and activists, communicators and coalition-builders, lawyers and local organisers. Whenever, wherever, and however expression is threatened, ARTICLE 19 is there to defend it.

We have spent 40 years crafting our ecosystem of resistance.

Our nine hubs worldwide, from Tunis to Taipei, are deeply embedded in the communities they serve. Our international office, advocates, and experts support them to create change. We bridge people with power-holders, from tech giants to governments to the UN, amplifying unheard voices in spaces where decisions are made.

Our unique structure enables us to deliver global impact rooted in local needs.

ARTICLE 19's vision is for a world in which all people, everywhere, can freely express themselves and engage in public life without fear or discrimination.

In our digital era, ARTICLE 19 is an international think–do organisation that propels the FoE movement locally and globally to ensure that all people realise the power of their voices. Together with our partners, we:

- **Think:** By developing cutting-edge research and legal and policy analysis to drive change in the world;
- **Do:** By leading work on the frontlines of expression through our regional offices and reinforcing positive change on the ground; and
- **Propel** change by sparking innovation in the global FoE movement through our research, campaigns, and advocacy.

Global objectives and activities

Global objectives and activities
This report covers activity undertaken across the ARTICLE 19 group during the fifth year of our current strategy, *The Power of Our Voices*.

For the duration of the strategy, ARTICLE 19 is working to achieve impact across four global objectives, three of which are programmatic and the fourth of which concerns operational change. These objectives have been set in response to our strategic assessment of the external world, in which we see a global inflection point where attacks on FoE are driving a decline in democracy and human rights.

To recap, what follows is a high-level summary of our global objectives. These objectives and goals are shared with the reader to show the breadth and depth of our ambition. We have also set an action plan that sits behind each strategic goal, with several sub-goals under each.

Global Objective 1: Digital spaces, governance, services, and technologies will be rooted in human rights and enable the diversity of human experience

ARTICLE 19 pioneered the consideration of human rights in the infrastructure of the internet. Our digital work includes people who are often left out of tech discussions, like women; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) people; and activists from the Global South. With these partners, we will work to define a new internet era – one that respects our FoE and reflects the diversity of human experience.

We will:

- Strengthen global information governance and digital infrastructure to build an internet supportive of human rights;
- Counter disinformation and improve media literacy;
- Challenge mass surveillance and demand a ban on biometrics; and
- Strengthen legislation to keep our data private from governments and Big Tech.

Global Objective 2: More inclusive, protected, and resilient communities and individuals feel free to express themselves in public and media

Progress is often instigated by the people who bear the brunt of government and corporate repression. When they bravely speak out to expose injustice and demand racial, gender, or economic equality, they make things better for all of us. ARTICLE 19 will amplify the voices of those who are the most vulnerable and systemically discriminated against.

We will work with:

- **Communities at risk:** Human rights defenders, activists, political dissidents, women, indigenous and racialised people, migrants, religious and ethnic minorities and diaspora, and LGBTQI+ communities;

- **Infomediaries:** Journalists, social communicators, whistleblowers, media workers, and independent and community media outlets – particularly those reporting on corruption, human rights, and the environment; and

- **Civil society, community networks, and social movements:** Particularly youth, women, minority groups, and those fighting corruption and defending the environment – especially in rural and remote areas.

Global Objective 3: Accurate and reliable data and information are publicly accessible, and must empower individuals to seize their rights

ARTICLE 19 is a thought leader in developing cutting-edge legal analyses, policies, and standards to protect FoE around the world. Wherever decisions affecting people's lives are made – whether at the international, regional, or national level – we will advocate to make sure their voices are heard.

We will develop policies on new areas impacting FoE, including:

- digital infrastructure;
- pluralism and diversity online;
- state propaganda; and
- disinformation.

And we will ramp up our empirical research, building the evidence base to shape international standards and tailor national solutions.

Global Objective 4: ARTICLE 19 will be an organisation that is connected, agile, resilient, and sustainable

So that ARTICLE 19 is able to effectively and efficiently deliver its strategic goals, our focus is on four interrelated areas of organisational strengthening:

- **Connected:** Simplifying our communication systems, structures, and ways of working to enable easy collaboration, both externally and internally;

- **Agile:** Ensuring our technology, processes, and knowledge-management systems are being used efficiently to enable faster, more flexible, and more effective working;

- **Resilient:** Increasing our capability – humanly, digitally, and financially – to anticipate threats so that we are better placed to manage and recover from the impacts of

sudden shocks; and

- **Sustainable:** Ensuring funding and financial costing models, infrastructure, people, and organisational values and behaviours underpin ARTICLE 19's long-term stability and enhance its ability to have future impact.

Achievements and performance against objectives

The following sections provide highlights from our international and regional offices' impact against our strategic goals and outcomes, along with the challenges we faced, in 2025.

Chief among those challenges were the US government's (USG) massive and immediate cuts to foreign aid from January–April 2025, followed by further terminations of USG grants in the months since. ARTICLE 19's report, *Targeted: How cuts to US foreign aid threaten freedom of expression and its defenders worldwide*, revealed the devastating impact of these cuts, including on ARTICLE 19:

In 2024, **40%** of our funding came from the USG. By the end of 2025, it had reduced to less than **30%**.

These substantial cuts, coupled with the urgent – and overnight – need to reorient to a stark new funding and geopolitical landscape, significantly affected ARTICLE 19's ability to deliver impact across all strategic areas in 2025. For example,

- **GO1:** The field of **digital rights and internet freedom** has been hugely damaged, weakening global efforts to counter digital authoritarianism.
- **GO2:** The cuts have decimated **civil society** worldwide, and **protection** services have massively reduced at the same time that risks facing human rights defenders (HRDs) and journalists have significantly increased (more journalists were killed in 2025 than since at least 1992).
- **GO3:** The cuts have widened the discrepancy between investment in *countering* **disinformation** and investment in *disseminating* it, posing a severe threat to elections, climate action, and conflict.

These cuts did not occur in a vacuum: they took place against a backdrop of shrinking freedom of expression worldwide. ARTICLE 19's Global Expression Report 2025 revealed that more than two-thirds of people have less freedom of expression than we had a decade ago.

Yet despite this hostile environment and vastly reduced resources, ARTICLE 19's teams around the world succeeded in delivering genuine impact in the lives of those we serve.

For example:

- Globally, **16** laws, resolutions, and policies in line with ARTICLE 19's position were adopted.

- Readership of our most recent International Impact Report (published in 2025) grew by **730%** in 2 years – proving that, in such challenging times, there remains a clear appetite for success stories from the freedom of expression frontlines.

The table below summarises ARTICLE 19's results in 2025 against key output indicators:

Activity type	Indicator	Total
Think: Publishing cutting-edge research and legal analysis to enhance our global leadership and drive our work	No. research projects / activities undertaken	**45**
	No. legal analyses and policy briefings	**51**
Do: Leading programme work on the frontlines of expression through our regional offices to protect, enhance, and empower voices	No. people trained	**2,363**
	No. third parties provided financial support	**37**
Propel: Conducting innovative campaigns and advocacy to ensure key stakeholders implement change	No. statements / submissions	**193**
	No. campaigns	**10**
	No. engagements in events	**150**

GLOBAL OBJECTIVE 1: Digital spaces, governance, services, and technologies will be rooted in human rights and enable the diversity of human experience.

International impact

Tackling Domain Name System (DNS) abuse

- The DNS acts like the internet's phonebook, translating human-readable addresses (like article19.org) into the numbers computers use to communicate. The way in which it is managed has profound freedom of expression implications: it can, for instance, force domain providers to moderate and take down websites based on their content. For that reason, tackling DNS abuse was a key focus for ARTICLE 19 in 2025.

- This work primarily took place through advocacy at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which oversees DNS infrastructure. ARTICLE 19 was invited to represent the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group at a session on DNS abuse organised by the Registrars Stakeholder Group, where we highlighted risks posed to freedom of expression.

- In recognition of our expertise, ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organisation Council granted ARTICLE 19 observer status to a new team tasked with developing recommendations for ICANN policy to address DNS abuse. ARTICLE 19 is the only non-elected Council member in the group and will lead on providing feedback on its policies.

Challenging monopolies in digital markets

- ARTICLE 19 published a piece on Tech Policy Press on the political power struggle over control of orbital infrastructure at the **International Telecommunication Union**, which will define how global connectivity is shaped. In addition, our fast response to an Amazon Web Services technical malfunction – which sent hundreds of websites offline – led to more than a dozen media outlets (including *The Guardian*, *The New York Times, Politico*, and *Al Jazeera*) quoting ARTICLE 19 on the democratic failures of a highly concentrated network.

- The **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers** (IEEE) accepted all ARTICLE 19's proposed revisions to white papers on the Smart Grid and Internet of Things. As a result, they now incorporate clearer language; more concrete examples of interoperability, spectrum sharing, and system coexistence; and greater recognition that interoperability challenges are not only technical but also affect deployment models and market entry for smaller actors. Additionally, IEEE 802.19 voted in favour of ARTICLE 19's position that further discussions are needed on 6GHz and its coexistence with 5GHz. This could create opportunities for innovation, including reusing existing equipment (which is especially beneficial for low-income communities), and will directly contribute to defending unlicensed spectrum as a shared public resource, paving the way for alternative services and networks.

Strengthening accountability for the gravest international crimes

- The **International Criminal Court** (ICC) prosecutes individuals for the most serious international crimes: genocide, war crimes, crimes of aggression, and crimes against humanity. In December 2025, its Office of the Prosecutor adopted a new policy to strengthen accountability for these crimes when they are enabled by cyber means. As a result of ARTICLE 19's advocacy, the final policy:

    - Sets out that any collaboration with states to address cyber-enabled crimes must adhere to international human rights law;

    - Recognises that biometric and AI-powered surveillance, information operations, and internet shutdowns could amount to or facilitate international crimes; and

    - Clarifies that the ICC could investigate crimes committed in the context of commercial activity: a huge step forward, given that tech companies provide the services and infrastructure that enable the gravest international crimes.

Regional impact

Ensuring AI respects human rights

- **Europe:** The Council of Europe's (CoE) Committee of Experts on the Impacts of Generative AI for Freedom of Expression, which provides non-binding guidance for member states, published new landmark guidance for the media. ARTICLE 19 contributed expertise and proposals throughout the drafting process. We focused on the impact of generative AI (on information plurality and diversity (including biased datasets) and the widespread adoption of generative AI-based augmented search applications, which, by establishing new intermediaries between the media and audiences, may disrupt the media's reach and economic viability. The new guidance will strengthen the resilience of European media and protect their right to seek, receive, and impart information in the context of genAI, as well as influencing how countries beyond Europe approach this issue.

- **Mexico:** In partnership with Thomson Reuters and UNAM, ARTICLE 19 published new research analysing governments' use of automated technologies and their impacts on human rights, and demanding transparency in the acquisition and deployment of algorithmic tools. The report's launch was followed by an event at RightsCon 2025, which highlighted the risks of technology contracts that lack oversight and human rights impact assessments and demanded transparent, participatory processes across the region.

- **Brazil:** From prioritising cases to drafting documents, the majority of Brazil's courts use AI. Yet given AI's well-documented pitfalls – from hallucination to discrimination – handing it the levers of justice could be a cure worse than the disease. That's why ARTICLE 19 Brazil and South America campaigned for AI use in the judiciary to be strictly regulated in 2025. Thanks to our advocacy:

    - A new **National Council of Justice** resolution ruled that, when using AI, the judiciary must adhere to certain principles, including human oversight, transparency, and non-discrimination.

    - Any AI model used by the judiciary must also obey Brazil's **Access to Information Act** – so even if courts don't actively disclose information, the public has the right to request it.

    - The **National Committee for AI of the Judiciary** (responsible for enforcing the new resolution) now includes two civil society representatives. Their oversight, scrutiny, and perspectives will be crucial to ensure the new rules live up to their promise and respect people's rights.

Fairer digital markets, fairer societies

- **Europe:** The design and governance of digital markets and infrastructure dictate how people access information, speak out, and take part in democracy. Yet a handful of Big Tech companies have cornered these spaces, seizing control over who can speak, who can be heard, and how our societies function. ARTICLE 19 has helped to transform how governments in Europe deal with these challenges. Our work continued apace in 2025:

    - In Brussels, we co-organised our annual Digital Markets Act (DMA) Enforcement Symposium, which attracted huge representation from the European Commission, as well as The Future of Democracy conference, with attendees including heads of state, Nobel Laureates, policymakers, technologists, and advocates.

    - To feed into the first review of the DMA, we published a new report focusing on how it can address cloud and AI, and discussed it at the European Parliament.

    - We filed complaints against Alphabet and Apple for non-compliance with the DMA, which attracted significant attention from regulators and the media.

Empowering communities for internet freedom

- **Asia Pacific:** Instead of protecting their users in repressive regimes, too many tech companies are corroborating with dictators to censor, surveil, and spread state propaganda. ARTICLE 19 Asia's project, Engaging Tech for Internet Freedom, set out to redistribute that power from tech giants to local communities. Partners trained by ARTICLE 19 published new research examining tech companies' responsibilities in China, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

- ARTICLE 19 Asia also developed a new tool, **CLARITI** (with Ranking Digital Rights), to help CSOs conduct human rights impact assessments (HRIAs) of tech companies – and we trained them to advocate with those companies. By the end of 2025, CLARITI had over **100** subscribers and had become a global word-of-mouth success, attracting interest from Brazil to Indonesia to Sri Lanka. Independent evaluation found that CLARITI achieved or exceeded **89%** of its indicators. Compared to our initial plans:

    - **More than double** the number of CSO representatives benefited from our training.
    - **More than double** the number of tech companies engaged with our partners to develop and implement human rights practices.
    - **More than 8 times** as many CSOs engaged in advocacy with national, regional, or international governance bodies.

GLOBAL OBJECTIVE 2: More inclusive, protected, and resilient communities and individuals feel free to express themselves in public and media.

International impact

UN calls for end to biometric mass surveillance

- New **UN Human Rights Council** resolutions on the safety of journalists and HRDs and new and emerging technologies incorporated ARTICLE 19's recommendations. In the latter resolution – the Council's strongest in years – the UN called for an end to biometric mass surveillance for the first time: a huge step forward, and one that ARTICLE 19 has long advocated for. Adopted unanimously and co-sponsored by over 50 countries (signalling strong international commitment), the resolution lays the groundwork for further progress on biometric surveillance, internationally and nationally.

Uniting digital rights defenders

- Team CommUNITY's (TCU) flagship community event, the **Global Gathering**, brings together digital rights defenders from all over the world who work on the most urgent challenges at the intersection of technology and human rights. Over three days, attendees share innovative grassroots approaches to technology challenges, circumvention and secure communication technologies, and organisational sustainability. Typically, participants represent over 120+ countries, with 51% of attendees living in the Global Majority, and 54% identifying as women or gender non-conforming.

- In 2025, TCU achieved its three-year vision of bringing Global Gathering back to its pre-pandemic impact and scale – despite significant funding cuts.

- This achievement was historic not only because of the immense effort required to bring the event back, but also because of the moment in which it took place. As censorship and surveillance continue to rise around the world, creating a safe and secure space where civil society feels welcomed, can express themselves freely, and build meaningful connections has never been more important. Global Gathering 2025 reaffirmed TCU's commitment to strengthening the global digital rights community at a time when solidarity, trust, and collective action are more essential than ever.

Regional impact

Protecting journalists and HRDs

- **Nepal, Paraguay, and Bangladesh:** For the first time that ARTICLE 19 is aware of, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) submissions for Nepal and Paraguay and the mid-term

submission for Bangladesh took an intersectional gender approach to freedom of expression. This can partly be attributed to submissions made by ARTICLE 19 focused on the unique challenges women face with freedom of expression, such as doxxing of women journalists and gender inequalities in employment, and how states should respond to these challenges. This sets a precedent that will enable further adoption of an intersectional gender approach in UPRs for years to come.

- **Brazil:**
    - After more than 20 years of civil society advocacy, the President of Brazil finally published a comprehensive **National Plan for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders** in November 2025. Developed by the Sales Pimenta Technical Working Group (of which ARTICLE 19 was an active member), the plan aims to comprehensively protect the bold activists on the frontlines of defending our rights. Crucially, the plan recognises communicators as HRDs – a key advocacy demand from ARTICLE 19 and our partners.
    - When Brazil hosted the **UN Climate Change Conference (COP30)** in 2025, ARTICLE 19 was there to advocate for environmental defenders. As well as pressing for Brazil to ratify Escazú, we called for Indigenous lands to be demarcated, isolated peoples to be protected, and the legacy of murdered environmental journalists Bruno Pereira and Dom Phillips to be preserved. And outside the conference, ARTICLE 19 marched with tens of thousands of people to demand urgent climate action now.
- **Central America:**
    - ARTICLE 19 Mexico and Central America developed an innovative new methodology, **Indicators of Censorship**, to measure violence against the press across the region. Our new methodology enables in-depth analysis of how violence works within and between the region's countries, including frequency, trends, and perpetrators. This data is vital to inform our advocacy. ARTICLE 19 used this methodology to analyse violence against the region's press in 2025 in Structures of Silence: Censorship, Opacity and Surveillance. As well as the risks that permeate the region, the report identifies the resistance, bravery, and tenacity of those who – despite the dangers – continue to report, investigate, and defend people's rights.
    - **Honduras:** ARTICLE 19 played a leading role in the Break the Fear Honduras coalition during the pre-election period, enabling coordinated monitoring, rapid information sharing, and collective protection among independent media and civil society organisations.
    - **El Salvador:** ARTICLE 19 also supported the development of a multisectoral Break

the Fear coalition in El Salvador, despite restricted civic space, including outlining roles, functions, activation protocols, and permanent monitoring responsibilities.

- **Guatemala:** ARTICLE 19 engaged with civil society organisations and international actors committed to the protection of journalists, Indigenous communicators, and community media, deepening understandings of territorial risks, gender-based threats, and structural challenges faced by local defenders.

- **Mexico:** Violence against the press affects not only journalists but also their families, who live with the threats and reality of violence every day. In 2025, ARTICLE 19 co-produced a new film, Bullet Machine, to tell their story.

Strengthening digital security

- **Iran:** ARTICLE 19 provides holistic digital-security support to at-risk communities on the ground in Iran, as well as to diaspora activists worldwide. In 2025, we:

  - **Launched a new tool that bypassed the regime's censorship and enabled Iranians to get online safely:** the latest of thousands of free connectivity mechanisms that we have provided to targeted communities in Iran since 2022

  - **Provided direct support to persecuted religious minorities,** including Bahá'í people at risk of detention and high-profile individuals like Nasrin Shakarami (mother of Nika Shahkarami, killed in the 2023 protests), and worked with platforms and the Bahá'í International Community to remove hate speech from online platforms.

  - **Thwarted hundreds of cyber attacks against Iranian dissidents abroad**, and equipped them with the tools and support they needed to continue their vital work.

  - **Supported 2,780 people via our 'training of trainers' model,** mitigating immediate threats and strengthening long-term resilience among at-risk communities.

  - **Secured people's online accounts in as little as 5 minutes** during the Twelve-Day War between Iran and Israel, preventing the authorities from accessing them.

  - **Distributed YubiKeys (which provide cutting-edge protection against phishing) to human rights defenders** in Iran, the diaspora, and other high-risk contexts worldwide, in partnership with their manufacturer Yubico.

- **Europe:** ARTICLE 19 Europe supported a network of organisations across the region, which, in turn, supported journalists in exile by detecting targeted cyber-attacks, investigating where these attacks came from, and alerting other at risk journalists. In total, the team consulted

with and supported 366 individuals and organisations, including:

- providing digital security assistance to 71 organisations;
- checking and configuring 59 devices;
- distributing and configuring 107 YubiKeys;
- checking and hardening 70 accounts; and
- conducting 11 organisational security audits.

As a result, civil society organisations and independent media were able to remain active, coordinated, and publicly present despite surveillance, cyber-attacks, the arrest or displacement of key staff, and persistent state-driven digital interference. This continuity is crucial for preserving civic space and defending against digital repression. In collaboration with local partners, the team also mapped and analysed digital threats faced by civil society in exile across the region, along with a toolkit to strengthen security practices.

- **Bangladesh:** ARTICLE 19 trained 140 individuals on digital security skills, mainstreaming gender and inclusion, and conducting advocacy. This will help participants to stay safe online, incorporate inclusive practices into their work, and safely and effectively communicate policy recommendations.

Challenging hate speech and disinformation

- **Malaysia:** ARTICLE 19 has been at the forefront of advocating for tolerance and inclusion, including addressing individual attacks and laws that hinder open discussions about race, religion, and royalty. This has led to the organisation effectively engaging with the government and providing valuable leadership in legal analysis. At least 90 news stories featured ARTICLE 19's press releases and comments, which journalists frequently praised as innovative, practical, and aligned with human rights law. ARTICLE 19 also launched a new campaign in 2025, #PencuciMulut (Media Against Hate Speech), featuring content that has reached over 100,000 views on social media.

- **MENA:** ARTICLE 19 MENA trained over 100 people across three countries on media and information literacy (MIL), including strengthening the capacity of journalists and fact checkers across **Tunisia** to combat disinformation, supporting individuals in **Jordan** to understand the Cyber Crime Law, and establishing a network of journalists in **Libya**.

Propelling community campaigns

- **Kenya:** ARTICLE 19 launched a social media campaign, '13 Days of Civil Liberties', to educate youth about their civil liberties: what they are and how to seek accountability for violations. On average, the campaign received more than 1,000 impressions each day, demonstrating both the salience of the issue and the campaign's effectiveness in mobilising public interest.

Improving access to justice

- **Tunisia:** 2025 saw further democratic backsliding in Tunisia, making judges' decisions more vital than ever. That's why ARTICLE 19 MENA trained a network of Tunisian judges to interpret laws in accordance with freedom of expression and other fundamental rights. By following a 'training of trainers' approach, we also equipped them with the skills to pass their learning on to many other judges, amplifying our impact. 100% of participants reported an increase in their knowledge – and said they were applying this knowledge in their judgments.

GLOBAL OBJECTIVE 3: Accurate and reliable data and information are publicly accessible and must empower individuals to seize their rights.

International impact

Improving transparency in corporate and government decision-making

- 2025 marked the 20-year anniversary of the **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS):** a unique UN summit that aimed to build a people-centric, inclusive, and development-oriented information society where everyone can create, access, use, and share information. Throughout the year, ARTICLE 19 participated in the 20-year review of WSIS (known as WSIS+20), assessing progress made towards implementing its vision. We were often the only human rights NGO in the room at these high-level negotiations, which resulted in successes including:
    - Maintaining or strengthening protections of freedom of expression, privacy, the safety of journalists, media freedom, and freedom of association and assembly; and
    - Successfully pushing for the inclusion of migrants, refugees, internally displaced people, and people in vulnerable situations as stakeholder groups affected by technology governance and impacts.

Regional impact

Defending people's right to know

- **Senegal:** On 25 August 2025, after decades of tireless advocacy by ARTICLE 19 West Africa and partners, Senegal's National Assembly finally adopted an access to information (ATI) law. The law guarantees the right to access information held by public institutions and private bodies that perform public functions, sets clear timelines for them to respond to ATI requests, and establishes an independent oversight mechanism. ARTICLE 19 West Africa also established a multi-stakeholder observatory to monitor implementation of the law and

ensure it delivers for the people of Senegal.

- **Malaysia:** ARTICLE 19 has advocated for a Right to Information Act in Malaysia for six years, in collaboration with local partners and the legal affairs department. In April 2025, the Department for Law and Institutional Reform finally established a committee to draft a Freedom of Information Bill and propose a mechanism for its implementation at the federal level. ARTICLE 19 was appointed to the committee, along with our key partners, CIJ and C4.

Promoting access to environmental information

- **MENA:** ARTICLE 19 supported five environmental ATI initiatives by journalists, researchers, media professors, and experts from Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and Lebanon, including delivering a workshop on environmental journalism for journalism university students; developing a digital platform for data-driven environmental journalism, and supporting a Tunisian journalist to publish an article highlighting the contribution of Maghreb's rural women to climate-change adaptation.

- **Brazil:** In November 2025, following intense mobilisation by ARTICLE 19 and the Escazú Brazil Movement, Brazil finally approved the Escazú Agreement. This landmark treaty is not only the first environmental agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean; it is the first in the world to oblige governments to protect environmental defenders specifically. This was a huge achievement: agribusiness and landowners wield outsized influence in the Chamber of Deputies, which was responsible for approving the treaty – and where it had languished since May 2023. ARTICLE 19 continues to advocate for the treaty's formal ratification.

Extending the right to reproductive information

- **Brazil:** Access to information about reproductive rights is critical to the right to freedom of expression. Yet in Brazil, the right to abortion is highly restricted, and information about how – and where – to get an abortion often falls through legal loopholes. That's why ARTICLE 19 Brazil and South America updated and relaunched the Legal Abortion Map in 2025. Designed to overcome information gaps and combat systemic barriers to reproductive rights, the map shows which public hospitals throughout Brazil perform legal abortions. This valuable public resource is the result of extensive, complex research at the local, state, and federal levels.

Promoting transparency in content moderation

- **Türkiye:** ARTICLE 19's advocacy targeted the state, tech companies, the UN, and the EU, including:

    - Exposing the increasing throttling of social media platforms during times of crisis;

- Urging platforms to refrain from complying with orders to remove content and block accounts (which increase during periods of civil unrest), uphold users' freedom of expression, and be transparent regarding their compliance with censorship orders;

- Contributing to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression's annual thematic report on freedom of expression and elections in the digital age; and

- Escalating the urgent need to protect internet freedom in Türkiye in meetings with the European External Action Service and the European Commission.

GLOBAL OBJECTIVE 4: Make ARTICLE 19 an organisation that will be better connected, agile, resilient, equitable and sustainable.

As with our other GOs, activities planned under GO4 were either cut or deprioritised due to USG funding cuts. ARTICLE 19 had to respond to a rapidly changing landscape, assess the impact of the cuts (to both the organisation and the sector), and realign and reprioritise work – as well as restructuring the organisation. In some of our offices, staff numbers were reduced by 20% and entire programmes were cut.

In the second half of 2025, our focus shifted to longer-term planning on how to operate in a radically different context. This included work to regenerate our strategy to reposition ourselves in a world where democratic values – including human rights – are being dismantled and our role, along with our partners' roles, is being questioned. We are continuing this transformation in 2026. Highlights from our GO4 work in 2025 are provided below.

Sub-goal 4.1: CONNECTED || ARTICLE 19 effectively collaborates and learns, internally and from others, whilst amplifying our message globally

- As part of the aforementioned structural changes, ARTICLE 19 decided to develop and manage our new intranet system, **Baraza**, in-house. This enabled us to tailor the tool better and improve efficiency in how we share and access key information (such as policies, templates, and guidance), communicate updates, and celebrate our successes.

Sub-goal 4.2: AGILE || ARTICLE 19's structures, processes and policies are efficiently delivering innovative, flexible, and effective working

- Following a delay in developing **PEBI** (our project-management and MEL system) until mid-2025 due to funding challenges, its rollout was paused as Microsoft sought to rectify a system issue.

- We reviewed and updated key global and local **operational policies** – including due diligence, anti-bribery and corruption, conflict of interest, sexual harassment, and whistleblowing – which will be available on Baraza and as part of ARTICLE 19's staff handbook.

Sub-goal 4.3: RESILIENT || ARTICLE 19 has the capability to anticipate threats and manage the impact of sudden shocks to the organisation

- Team Resilience continued to ensure ARTICLE 19's online systems remain safe and secure with the roll-out of **1Password** and **YubiKeys**. These enhanced security measures proved to be timely, given a wave of sophisticated cyber-attacks targeting human rights organisations. Team Resilience now centrally manages all laptops in the International Office and some in our regional offices, ensuring better oversight, security, and support.

- As part of our policy review, we drafted a **risk-management policy** and revisited risk registers across the organisation. We also created a US-focused risk assessment to guide our internal operations, such as travel to and via the US, and security assessments for staff living in the US and regional offices affected or threatened by conflict.

Sub-goal 4.4: EQUITABLE || ARTICLE 19 integrates diversity, equality, and inclusion into its ways of working, both internally and externally

- In early 2025, the People and Culture team shifted its focus to support the **resizing of the organisation**, culminating in an approximately 11% decrease in staff numbers across the whole organisation.

- Towards the end of the year, some large pieces of work were initiated, such as drafting reward principles under our **Global Reward Framework** and reviewing the benefits we provide across our offices.

- We also launched a new **Employee Assistance Programme**, designed to support human rights organisations and offering services in local languages; formally adopted a **4.5-day work week** for our UK, Europe, and Asia offices, following a successful trial period; and adopted a new benefit scheme for UK employees, **MediCash**, which provides access to a broader range of health benefits.

Sub-goal 4.5: SUSTAINABLE || ARTICLE 19 ensures its long-term stability and ability to have future impact

- ARTICLE 19 continued to **diversify its funding strategy** to increase the sustainability of our work.

- This included a series of events aimed at **high-net-worth individuals** (potential donors from the business and philanthropy worlds), hosted by members of ARTICLE 19's International Board, as well as our first **Global Giving appeal** for donations from the public, which raised nearly £20,000 in its first two months.

Plans for 2026

ARTICLE 19's work across the four global objectives will continue to implement a 'local to global' approach, taking issues that affect those at the local level and amplifying their concerns in international forums, as well as advocating for countries to apply international standards in their application of legislation related to FoE.

GLOBAL OBJECTIVE 1: Digital spaces, governance, services, and technologies will be rooted in human rights and enable the diversity of human experience.

- Publication of a case study on EU's digital boarders, a piece on data centres in Brazil, an opinion piece regarding Starlink and a DNS abuse case study.
- In Iran the Training of Trainers (ToT) program will continue in an effort to provide a wider number of users from vulnerable communities with the information and tools they need to protect their online accounts and the Rapid Response support will continue, providing digital support for individuals and organizations facing arrest, harassment, impersonation, or other malicious online activity.
- The West Africa team will conduct a targeted review and gap analysis of Senegal's 2023 AI strategy and Nigeria's draft AI strategy to identify weaknesses in human rights and democratic protections.
- The Asia Pacific Team will work on the production of two evidence-based research reports on data governance and content moderation by Malaysia's government and social media platforms in the country. The first report aims to conduct a comprehensive study on data and information governance in Malaysia, proposing policy recommendations to safeguard digital rights. The second aims to compile information on the AI systems being used in the public sector, assess the associated risks, and provide forward-looking recommendations for the Malaysian government.
- The Europe and Centra Asia team will produce multi-country research to understand current transnational digital security threats and responses against civic and media actors in Belarus and in the exiled communities in Ukraine, Georgia, Lithuania, and Poland.

GLOBAL OBJECTIVE 2: More inclusive, protected, and resilient communities and individuals feel free to express themselves in public and media.

- The UN Team will be leading a number of activities to deepen our understanding of how the UN Rabat Plan of Action applies online and to scale up dedication to and implementation of this framework in the digital age. This will include a) drafting a paper to explore new and emerging issues in tackling hate online.
- The Global China Programme will conduct legal analysis of financial and privacy laws in the UK and US — countries whose banks and payment platforms are widely used by Hong

Kongers. This will include mapping national and international laws, treaties and institutional processes that allow financial data to be shared with the Hong Kong and Chinese government.

- In Mexico the team will continue constant monitoring of violations of freedom of expression and the press to compile and maintain an updated database of cases of aggression and violence against journalists and media outlets, to strengthen the organization's analytical capacities, evidence patterns and trends of violence against the press in Mexico, and inform other data-driven actions.
- The East Africa team will collaborate with a consultant to develop and disseminate a comprehensive training manual containing resources and materials on media advocacy, legal frameworks, and press freedom issues specific to the East Africa region. This will help with the delivery of 2 training of trainer (ToT) workshops conducted on safety, and digital security, targeting at least 40 participants from 4 target Eastern African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda).
- The MENA team will conduct legal training for Libyan lawyers on the Libyan Legal framework on freedom of expression and Media freedom + international standards, along with workshop for Moroccan and Tunisian journalists to create a network and coordinate regional production related to fundamental rights.

GLOBAL OBJECTIVE 3: Accurate and reliable data and information are publicly accessible and must empower individuals to seize their rights.

- In Mexico there will be research on transparency law, focused on the judicial system as well as the Development of Legal Recommendation Guides for Environmental Journalists 6 Guides: Mexico, regional, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua.
- The Europe and Centra Asia team will continue advocacy with social media platforms for greater transparency in their management of censorship and other requests by the Turkish Government.
- In Brazil advocacy will continue based on the findings published in research resulting from the Legal Abortion Map.
- The Law and Policy team will conduct research and advocacy regarding impact of mass surveillance in conflict on FoE incl role and responsibilities of cloud computing providers."

GLOBAL OBJECTIVE 4: Make ARTICLE 19 an organisation that will be better connected, agile, resilient, equitable and sustainable.

- The core organisational focus in 2026 will be the global Transformation Process, this will seek to finalise the development of a new strategy to replace The Power of Our Voices as well as strengthen trust and internal alignment, to develop new ways of workingacross the organization. The Transformation Program will review ARTICLE 19’s programmatic, strategic and operational models through a circle methodology focused on: Strategy and Theory of

Change; Governance, structure and decision-making; Fundraising: responsibilities and flows; Finance and operating model.

- Team Resilience will build on the success of launching Baraza as a community knowledge sharing tool to ensure all teams use the system for document storage in a uniformed way
- People and Culture will roll out the Global Reward Framework ensuring all staff regardless of the regional office they are based in will receive a fair benefit package
- Business Development will continue to diversify income streams through the expansion of the successes under the high net worth individual and global giving events, as well as finalising and launching an ethical fundraising policy "

Financial review

The financial results for the year ended 31 December 2025 are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities. In 2025 ARTICLE 19 raised £15.3m (2024: £15.0m) and we spent £12.7m (2024: £15.3m).

Income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities based on need. Restricted income has remained similar year on year £10.7m (2024 £10.6m) also unrestricted income has remained similar year on year on year £4.6m (2024 £4.4m). ARTICLE 19 is very appreciative of the continued support and trust of our core unrestricted donors, SIDA and NORAD, which remains critical to our ability to defend FoE and support our regional offices globally.

Total expenditure decreased by £2.6m to £12.7m (2024: £15.3m), the reduction in expenditure is primarily due to the reduction in funding from US Government grants and related stop-work orders during 2025. Restricted expenditure decreased by £2.0m and unrestricted expenditure decreased by £0.6m.

The need for an independent, sustainable and resilient ecosystem for freedom of expression is hardly new, but it has taken on fresh urgency. Funding across the sector is contracting, driven largely by aid cuts from Global North governments that have long underwritten the field. At the same time, hostility towards human rights work, long the operating reality for journalists, activists and civil society across much of the world, is now being openly embraced by governments that once presented themselves as its defenders. No part of the sector is untouched, though the effects differ sharply: lost leverage for some, newly contested ground for others, and, for those already working under repression, the further thinning of support that was never sufficient. ARTICLE 19 and its partners are absorbing both pressures at once, and how the organisation responds will help shape whether that ecosystem emerges more resilient or more fragile. As funding tightens, ARTICLE 19 must demonstrate the value we bring within our ecosystem. Our value will not depend only on our expertise and reach but also on our legitimacy: on whether our partners, communities and funders see us as practising the values we advocate.

Designated reserves and unrestricted general funds

We hold a designated reserve to match the net book value of fixed assets. At the end of 2025 this totaled £119k (2024: £180k). Our free reserves, called general funds, total £1.2m (2024: £0.8m). Free reserves are available to provide operational working capital and to maintain ARTICLE 19's resilience to resist the financial impact of unforeseen events or unexpected risks surrounding projected income and expenditure.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is designed to protect the organisation against areas mentioned in our risk

review along with unexpected falls in income, unplanned increases in expenditure, security risks and unexpected fluctuations in exchange rates. Our policy results in a target of £1.8m and in comparing this with the general funds figure of £1.2m there is a shortfall against our target of £0.6m.

We continue to increase our sources of unrestricted income through fundraising, increasing indirect recovery rates and improving overall cost recovery to achieve our reserves target. Unrestricted reserves increased by £300k in 2025. We recognise that closing the shortfall completely will take time and may, in the short term, require some continued investment from our existing reserves. We continue to monitor our funding position closely.

Changes in group structure

There are no new changes in 2025.

Risk review

ARTICLE 19 reviews and updates its risk register and policy regularly, which covers both financial and operational risks. On a quarterly basis, the Board's Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC) reviews the risk register for completeness and the reasons for changes in the risk profile. The six-monthly Board meeting also has an overview of organisational risk as a standing agenda item.

Risk Management and Materialised Risks

From January 2025, one of our biggest risks – loss of donor funding – materialised, which had (and continues to have) a significant impact on our operations and programming. Our main mitigation plan – to diversify our funding – had been in place for many years; this led us to seeking alternative funding, including from high-net-worth individuals and new niche donors, as well as reviewing our operating costs to keep them trim. Nevertheless, the scale and suddenness of the loss in funding left a gap that could only be closed by reducing costs.

In addition, we tightened our external communications processes to manage reputational risks, following a review of changes in the US and wider geopolitical shifts. We carried out a US-focused risk assessment to assess potential modes of attack from the US administration, including possible legal action against our staff, vilification of leading spokespeople, and the targeting of partners, trustees, and foundations, which would affect US-based advice and financial support. We also sought legal and contractual advice, as proposed changes to our USG contracts made compliance with donor requirements more challenging and riskier.

During the year, we identified and mitigated some risks specific to USG funding, such as the cashflow impact of delays to payment caused by the Stop Work Orders and loss of USG programme staff. Our grant accountants worked closely with programme staff to follow guidance from USG

Project Officers, including submitting payment requests and monitoring cashflow across the organisation.

We also sought flexibility from key donors, which enabled us to manage our cashflow.

Going concern

Around the world, freedom of expression is under increasing pressure from authoritarianism, conflict, digital repression, disinformation, and shrinking civic space. The global system within which ARTICLE 19 was founded and designed to operate is giving way to a multipolarity of power, influence and risk; spread across many more actors and regions. As we approach our 40th birthday, we are redesigning, reinventing, and reinvigorating ARTICLE 19 for this changed environment, so we are organised for the world as it is rather than the world as it was.

By refining our strategic priorities, we will focus on where we can have the greatest impact. Our decision-making structures and operating model will be realigned to strengthen governance and make us more agile and responsive to fast-moving threats. A more compact core will reduce central costs, enabling us to direct more of our resources to our frontline, programmatic work. We will emerge in a stronger position to protect journalists and activists, to support partners and movements, and to secure our financial resilience for the long term.

Fundraising policy

We are aware of our obligations under the Charities Act to report our fundraising policy. Our funding comes almost entirely from statutory funders, trusts and foundations, and companies. Since 2021, we have also enabled individual supporters to donate to ARTICLE 19 through our website.

We are guided by our Ethical Standards Policy, which sets out three standards that govern how we seek and receive individual and corporate donations and funding. These three standards are:

- **Ethical Standard 1:** ARTICLE 19 will not accept funds (cash or in-kind) from corporations whose work or activities directly and actively undermine the achievement of our mission, i.e. to promote and defend freedom of expression and information globally.

- **Ethical Standard 2:** ARTICLE 19 will not enter into a relationship with a corporation that poses a substantial risk to ARTICLE 19's reputation which could lead to loss of support and credibility.

- **Ethical Standard 3:** All cash and non-cash funds received from corporations will be disclosed in full and publicly acknowledged by ARTICLE 19, in keeping with our commitment to transparency and accountability.

We do not use professional fundraisers, and we did not receive any complaints in the year. We are also considering registering with the Fundraising Regulator’s Code of Fundraising Practice in 2026.

Structure, governance, and management

Governance

ARTICLE 19 is a charitable company limited by guarantee (no 2097222). It was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 5 February 1987. ARTICLE 19 was registered as a charity on 7 January 1987 (registered charity number 327421).

Structure of the organisation

ARTICLE 19's International Office (based in London):

i) hosts ARTICLE 19 thematic teams (including digital, civic space and protection);
ii) hosts ARTICLE 19 international support teams (including Law and Policy; Communication and Campaigns; People and Culture; Projects, Finance and Operations) and the Executive Director;
iii) hosts some of the Regional Team for Europe and Central Asia as it transitions from being based in the UK to being based in the Netherlands as part of Stichting ARTICLE 19;
iv) directly manages the Regional Team for Southeast Asia; and
v) provides financial, operational and fundraising support to Regional Offices in Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, the United States, Senegal, and Tunisia.

The Regional Offices are of two types:

i) **Subsidiaries:** these parts of ARTICLE 19 have local governance boards and take independent management decisions from the International Office. They are treated as subsidiaries in the accounts. These include ARTICLE 19 Brazil and South America (ARTIGO 19 Brasil), ARTICLE 19 Mexico and Central America (ARTICULO 19 Campaña Global por la libertad de expression), ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa (based in Kenya), and Stichting ARTICLE 19 (Netherlands).
ii) **Branches:** these parts of ARTICLE 19 may have local advisory boards but do not take independent management decisions from the International Office. These include ARTICLE 19 Bangladesh and South Asia, ARTICLE 19 Senegal and West Africa, ARTICLE 19 Middle East and North Africa, ARTICLE 19 Inc. (USA), and ARTICLE 19 Global Campaign on Freedom of Expression (Canada).

Affiliate Members are those regional offices that have a governance or advisory board from which they appoint a representative to the International General Assembly. Affiliates are ARTICLE 19 Brazil and South America (ARTIGO 19 Brasil), ARTICLE 19 Mexico and Central America (ARTICULO 19 Campaña Global por la libertad de expression), ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa (based in Kenya), Stichting ARTICLE 19 (Netherlands) and ARTICLE 19 Middle East and North Africa.

The International General Assembly comprises the Trustees of the UK charity together with nominated representatives from the Affiliates.

Board of Trustees

ARTICLE 19 is governed by an International Board of Trustees ('Directors' under company law). The International Board of Trustees meets twice a year to provide strategic direction for the organisation, and to monitor the work of the Executive Director and management team.

One Trustee resigned in January 2026. One new Trustee was appointed in August 2026 and is currently being on-boarded. Our full Board, with primary locations, at the time of signing in 2026, consists of:

- **Robert Latham** *(Chair)* USA
- **David Viney** *(Treasurer)* UK
- **Dr Rasha Abdulla,** Egypt
- **Amira El-Sayed,** Germany
- **Prof. David Kaye,** US
- **Muluka Anne Miti-Drummond,** Zambia
- **Lucia Nader,** UK and Brazil
- **Atanas Politov,** UK
- **Javier Garza Ramos,** Mexico
- **Aparna Ravi** India (resigned in January 2026)
- **Lesley Swarbrick,** UK

The Board's Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC) is responsible for overseeing financial, audit, HR, and operational matters, including risk management. The committee meets a minimum of four times a year, with additional meetings as required. It is chaired by the Treasurer (David Viney).

The Board's Governance Sub-Committee is charged with overseeing and measuring the overall effectiveness of the governance mechanisms of the organisation and recommending new Trustees for appointment to fill vacancies. The committee meets at least three times a year. It is chaired by the Chair (Robert Latham).

The Board's People Collective is charged with overseeing ARTICLE 19's people, culture, policies and practices including senior appointments and succession planning. The committee meets at least 3 times a year and is chaired by the Trustee specialising in HR (Lesley Swarbrick)

Selection and appointment of Trustees

There is a documented and structured process for the appointment of new Trustees. Nominations and recommendations are first made by existing members and from open recruitment. Their CVs are then circulated to the Governance Sub-Committee of the Board, which arranges for potential candidates to be interviewed for their suitability. The Governance Committee then proposes selected candidates to the General Assembly, who in turn recommend them to the Trustees upon agreement. The Trustees will then vote to appoint a new Trustee. New Trustees are confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of ARTICLE 19.

Induction and training of Trustees

Newly appointed UK Trustees meet with the Chair, the Executive Director, and staff members as part of a documented and structured induction programme; and they receive key ARTICLE 19 organisational and programmatic documents. For non-UK-based Trustees, the induction programme process commences virtually and is completed in person at the time of the next Board meeting.

Setting remuneration of key management personnel

The FGPC sets the pay of the Executive Director and reviews this on a periodic basis, taking into account market conditions and pay in similar organisations. The pay of other key management personnel is determined by a salary scale that is updated annually in line with inflation and applied to all staff.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of ARTICLE 19 for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which

give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the detection and prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees of the company who held office at the date of the approval of the Financial Statements as set out above confirm, so far as they are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Auditors

Sayer Vincent LLP are the charitable company's auditors in 2025.

We would like to thank everyone, and all organisations, who support our work – donors, staff and Trustees. Our work would not be possible without you.

This report and the financial statements were approved by the International Board on 26th October 2026 and are signed on their behalf by:

Robert Latham (Chair)

David Viney (Treasurer)

Administrative details

Company number	2097222
Charity number	327421
Registered office and operational address	72-82 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RW

Trustees

Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the time of writing were as follows:

Robert Latham	Chair; Chair of Governance Sub-Committee
David Viney	Treasurer; Chair of Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee (from June 2025)
Rasha Abdulla	
Amira El-Sayed	
David Kaye	
Lucia Nader	
Muluka Anne Miti-Drummond	
Sejal Parmar	Appointed August 2026
Atanas Politov	
Javier Garza Ramos	
Aparna Ravi	Resigned January 2026
Lesley Swarbrick	

Committees and their members

Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee

David Viney	Treasurer and Chair of Sub-Committee
Mark Salway	Treasurer and Chair of Sub-Committee (until June 2025)
Robert Latham	
Atanas Politiv	
Lesley Swarbrick	Until December 2025

Governance Sub-Committee

Robert Latham	Chair of Sub-Committee (from June 2025)
Rasha Abdullah	

	Javier Garza Ramos	
	People Collective	
	Lesley Swarbrick	Chair of Sub-Committee
	David Kaye	
	Lucia Nadar	
	Muluka Anne Miti-Drummond	
Secretary	Sara Wilbourne	
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC, London	
Solicitors	Bates Well 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE	

Auditor	Sayer Vincent LLP Chartered accountants and registered auditors 110 Golden Lane London EC1Y 0TG

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ARTICLE 19 (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the group and parent charitable company balance sheets, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the group financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt

on ARTICLE 19's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, including the strategic report other than the group financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the group financial statements does not cover the other information, and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the group financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the group financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements
- The trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report, including the strategic report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied

that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charites Act 2011 and report in accordance with those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material

misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the group's policies and procedures relating to:
  - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
  - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the group operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the group from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery,

collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Orchard (Senior
statutory auditor)
30 October 2026
for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory
Auditor, 110 Golden Lane,
LONDON, EC1Y 0TG
Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

ARTICLE 19
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	**2025 Total £**	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and Legacies	2a	4,620,158	-	**4,620,158**	4,406,011	-	4,406,011
Charitable Activities:	2b						
Africa projects		-	822,749	**822,749**	-	544,805	544,805
Asia projects		-	859,234	**859,234**	-	1,815,507	1,815,507
Latin America projects		-	3,218,228	**3,218,228**	-	2,559,627	2,559,627
Law & Policy projects		-	(121,352)	**(121,352)**	-	1,020,491	1,020,491
Europe & Central Asia projects		-	2,138,709	**2,138,709**	-	999,672	999,672
Middle East & North Africa projects		-	1,191,712	**1,191,712**	-	1,039,405	1,039,405
Global thematic projects		-	2,594,019	**2,594,019**	-	2,605,256	2,605,256
Intercompany		-	-	**-**	-	-	-
Total Income		4,620,158	10,703,299	**15,323,457**	4,406,011	10,584,763	14,990,774
Expenditure on:							
Cost of raising funds	3	289,627	1,613	**291,240**	302,708	167	302,875
Charitable Activities:	3						
Africa projects		539,003	565,474	**1,104,477**	557,414	387,464	944,878
Asia projects		329,774	870,232	**1,200,006**	456,437	1,703,700	2,160,137
Latin America projects		1,148,280	1,745,113	**2,893,393**	1,157,534	2,587,201	3,744,735
Law & Policy projects		278,454	341,836	**620,290**	463,679	352,822	816,501
Europe & Central Asia projects		443,729	1,569,470	**2,013,199**	498,649	1,583,495	2,082,144
Middle East & North Africa projects		272,391	1,153,028	**1,425,419**	370,634	1,239,254	1,609,888
Global thematic projects		947,445	2,171,666	**3,119,111**	982,969	2,595,721	3,578,690
Total Expenditure		4,248,703	8,418,432	**12,667,135**	4,790,024	10,449,824	15,239,848
Net Income for the year before transfers	4	371,455	2,284,867	**2,656,322**	(384,013)	134,939	(249,074)
Transfers between funds		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	-
Net income for the year after transfers		371,455	2,284,867	**2,656,322**	(384,013)	134,939	**(249,074)**
Reconciliation of Funds							
Total funds brought forward		1,002,095	5,388,975	**6,391,070**	1,386,108	5,254,036	6,640,144
Total funds carried forward		1,373,550	7,673,842	**9,047,392**	1,002,095	5,388,975	**6,391,070**

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.
Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 21 to the financial statements.

ARTICLE 19
Balance sheet
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Company no. 02097222

	Note	The group		The charity	
		2025	2024	**2025**	2024 Restated
		£	£	**£**	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	10	**118,731**	180,784	**72,872**	121,153
		118,731	180,784	**72,872**	121,153
Current assets:					
Debtors	16	**1,362,637**	764,349	**1,573,027**	781,407
Cash at bank and in hand		**8,866,365**	7,054,810	**3,760,278**	3,814,098
		10,229,002	7,819,159	**5,333,305**	4,595,505
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	**1,300,341**	1,608,873	**1,053,902**	1,175,891
		8,928,661	6,210,286	**4,279,403**	3,419,614
Net current assets		**9,047,392**	6,391,070	**4,352,275**	3,540,767
Total net assets					
Funds:					
Restricted income funds	21	**7,673,842**	5,388,975	**3,607,707**	3,116,135
Unrestricted income funds					
Designated funds		**118,731**	180,784	**72,872**	121,153
General funds		**1,254,819**	821,311	**671,696**	303,479
Total unrestricted funds		**1,373,550**	1,002,095	**744,568**	424,632
Total funds		**9,047,392**	6,391,070	**4,352,275**	3,540,767

This report and the financial statements were approved by the Committee on 26 October 2026 and are signed on their :behalf by

Robert Latham (Chair)

David Viney (Treasurer)

ARTICLE 19
Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	22		**1,975,150**		184,396
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of fixed assets		**(16,308)**		(98,618)	
Net cash (used in) investing activities			**(16,308)**		(98,618)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			**1,958,842**		85,778
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			**7,054,810**		6,870,414
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to other movements			**(147,287)**		184,396
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23		**8,866,365**		7,054,810

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

ARTICLE 19 is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in the United Kingdom. The registered office address is 72-82 Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1R 4RW.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.
Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly-owned subsidiaries ARTICLE 19 Brazil and South America (ARTIGO 19 Brasil), ARTICLE 19 Mexico and Central America (ARTICULO 19, Campaña global por la libertad de expression), ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa (based in Kenya) and ARTICLE 19 Netherlands (Stichting ARTICLE 19) on a line by line basis.
Transactions and balances between the charity and its subsidiaries have been eliminated from the consolidated financial statements. Balances between the entities are disclosed in the notes of the charity's balance sheet. A separate statement of financial activities, or income and expenditure account, for the charity itself is not presented as a summary of the result for the year is disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

The SORP 2015 stipulates that where overseas offices are legally registered in their country of operations as separate legal entities, this is an indication that they should be treated as subsidiaries for accounting purposes. However, having reviewed the governance and management procedures in place, oversight from ARTICLE 19 in the UK is such that other overseas offices (USA, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Senegal and Canada) are in substance branches and so are included in the results and position of the charity.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

As noted in the Report of the Trustees, we are redesigning and reinventing Article 19 for a changed world, as we approach our 40th birthday and refresh our five year strategy. A key component of that transformation programme is to reduce central costs; enabling us to direct more of our resources to the frontline and secure our financial resilience for the long term.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

f) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Income and expenditure that meets these criteria is charged to the fund.
Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of training/workshops, grants to partners, events, campaigns and publications undertaken to further the purposes of the charity, and their associated support costs;
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

i) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended (note 3) are allocated to a particular activity where the cost relates directly to that project. The cost of overall direction and administration of each activity consists of salary and overhead costs for the central function. This is apportioned on the following basis which is an estimate based on staff time and the amount attributable to each activity.

Cost of raising funds	4%
Africa projects	9%
Asia projects	9%
Latin America projects	27%
Law & Policy	8%
Europe & Central Asia project	9%
Middle East & North Africa projects	10%
Global projects	24%

j) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

k) Fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Office equipment	4 years
Computer Equipment	3 years
Office fit out	Duration of lease

l) Grants to partners

Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and that any condition attaching to the grant is outside of the control of the charity.

m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

n) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

o) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

p) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans, which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

q) Pension Scheme

ARTICLE 19 operates a group pension scheme with Scottish Widows that pays an employer contribution of 8% for its employees in the UK. From November 2016, ARTICLE 19 joined the auto-enrolment scheme with the same pension provider.

r) Foreign exchange policy

ARTICLE 19 hold funds in the currency in which those funds will be transferred to its Regional Offices and to its partners. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the average rate of exchange for the year. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net movement in funds for the year.

s) Restated 2024 Charity only figures

The prior year charity only funds, charity only debtors and creditors were restated to correctly classify the Intercompany balance as a debtor rather than a creditor.

2a Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2025 Total**	2024 Total
	£	£	**£**	£
Institutional donors				
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Note 27)	754,593	-	**754,593**	725,111
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Note 26)	1,771,869	-	**1,771,869**	1,793,980
Sub-total of Institutional donors	2,526,462	-	**2,526,462**	2,519,091
Other income				
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	624,304	-	**624,304**	434,918
Ford Foundation	398,528	-	**398,528**	382,493
Hewlett Foundation	393,784	-	**393,784**	384,970
MacArthur Foundation	-	-	**-**	117,384
Other voluntary income	677,080	-	**677,080**	567,155
Sub-total of Other donors	2,093,696	-	**2,093,696**	1,886,920
Total	4,620,158	-	**4,620,158**	4,406,011

All donations and legacies income received in 2025 and 2024 were unrestricted.

2b Income from charitable activities by donors

	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2025 Total**	2024 Total
	£	£	**£**	£
Institutional donors				
European Commission	-	949,179	**949,179**	631,969
Global Affairs Canada	-	277,446	**277,446**	214,119
NoRAD - The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Ex Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	-	-	**-**	4,502
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	-	-	**-**	142,920
UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	-	-	**-**	1
US Department of State	-	4,055,660	**4,055,660**	3,466,197
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	-	-	**-**	421,887
Other Institutional donors	-	465,155	**465,155**	510,185
Sub-total of Institutional donors	-	5,747,440	**5,747,440**	5,391,780
Trusts and Foundations				
Ford Foundation	-	1,389,959	**1,389,959**	902,637
Luminate Foundation	-	447,772	**447,772**	1,144,971
Mercator Stiftung	-	-	**-**	65,886
Open Society Foundation	-	59,469	**59,469**	55,440
Other Trusts and Foundations	-	1,126,963	**1,126,963**	247,564
Sub-total of Trust and Foundations	-	3,024,163	**3,024,163**	2,416,498
Other donors				
DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance	-	106,356	**106,356**	246,397
European Partnership for Democracy	-	-	**-**	160,609
IREX	-	119,737	**119,737**	185,090
Free Press Unlimited	-	145,754	**145,754**	- 1,224
National Endowment for Democracy	-	188,185	**188,185**	510,370
Open Technology Fund	-	64,537	**64,537**	540,333
Stichting Hivos	-	237,009	**237,009**	223,537
UNESCO	-	44,528	**44,528**	177,037
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	-	110,760	**110,760**	118,614
Other donors	-	914,830	**914,830**	615,722
Sub-total of Other donors	-	1,931,696	**1,931,696**	2,776,485
Total	-	10,703,299	**10,703,299**	10,584,763

All income from charitable activities received in 2025 and 2024 was restricted.

3a Analysis of Expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities										
	Cost of raising funds	*Africa projects*	*Asia projects*	*Latin America projects*	*Law & Policy projects*	*Europe & Central Asia projects*	*Middle East & North Africa projects*	*Global projects*	*Governance costs*	*Head Office support costs*	*2025 Total*
Staff costs (Note 5)	218,827	515,973	530,446	1,499,150	454,438	543,924	576,528	1,679,650	-	1,641,231	7,660,167
Grants to partners (Note 7)	-	24,137	181,703	-	-	847,303	78,101	13,715	-	-	1,144,959
Project expertise costs	-	62,139	85,664	135,118	-	52,558	243,715	270,688	-	27,811	877,693
Training, events & workshops	-	145,342	63,333	35,078	11,025	76,713	53,236	184,339	-	7,776	576,842
Media and publications	-	3,191	14,090	32,759	190	2,996	359	53,247	-	225,570	332,402
Project travel costs	5,550	23,796	30,934	268,494	20,224	55,234	124,495	240,884	-	37,826	807,437
Project support costs	8,950	107,766	53,384	344,897	11,070	24,750	65,543	55,286	-	486,912	1,158,558
Governance costs	-	2,510	1,833	2,550	-	9,401	-	1,071	91,712	-	109,077
Total expenditure 2025	233,327	884,854	961,387	2,318,046	496,947	1,612,879	1,141,977	2,498,880	91,712	2,427,126	12,667,135
Support	55,804	211,626	229,931	554,398	118,852	385,745	273,122	597,647	-	(2,427,126)	-
Governance	2,109	7,997	8,688	20,949	4,491	14,575	10,320	22,583	(91,712)	-	-
Total expenditure 2025	**291,240**	**1,104,477**	**1,200,006**	**2,893,393**	**620,290**	**2,013,199**	**1,425,419**	**3,119,110**	**-**	**-**	**12,667,135**

3b Analysis of Expenditure (previous year)

	Charitable activities										
	Cost of raising funds	*Africa projects*	*Asia projects*	*Latin America projects*	*Law & Policy projects*	*Europe & Central Asia projects*	*Middle East & North Africa projects*	*Global projects*	*Governance costs*	*Head Office support costs*	*2024 Total*
Staff costs (Note 5)	233,216	430,321	707,023	2,136,643	605,370	637,336	627,011	1,726,422	-	1,635,460	8,738,802
Grants to partners (Note 7)	-	40,380	486,477	-	-	944,474	75,591	152,176	-	-	1,699,098
Project expertise costs	-	88,367	167,256	88,654	28,087	7,058	274,126	409,111	-	2,085	1,064,744
Training, events & workshops	-	109,341	201,520	3,713	19,510	8,915	123,873	227,737	-	21,507	716,116
Media and publications	4,351	8,012	57,548	45,721	1,340	198	47,295	76,367	-	357,388	598,220
Project travel costs	8,957	22,517	60,167	322,466	29,766	66,133	89,121	266,567	-	75,259	940,953
Project support costs	378	69,088	74,984	450,994	- 18,463	29,260	74,730	53,562	-	641,814	1,376,347
Governance costs	-	2,237	5,966	4,512	-	3,986	631	5,400	82,836	-	105,568
Total expenditure 2024	246,902	770,263	1,760,941	3,052,703	665,610	1,697,360	1,312,378	2,917,342	82,836	2,733,513	15,239,848
Support	54,327	169,479	387,455	671,678	146,453	373,466	288,759	641,896	-	(2,733,513)	-
Governance	1,646	5,136	11,741	20,354	4,438	11,318	8,751	19,452	(82,836)	-	-
Total expenditure 2024	**302,875**	**944,878**	**2,160,137**	**3,744,735**	**816,501**	**2,082,144**	**1,609,888**	**3,578,690**	**-**	**-**	**15,239,848**

4 Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	33,518	40,375
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	203,822	260,406
Equipment	3,258	-
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	71,687	54,481
Other services - Donor audits	51,558	74,709
Losses on foreign exchange	192,133	70,671

5 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	2,447,038	2,712,922
Social security costs	319,180	319,397
UK Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schem	197,114	218,112
Regional staff costs	3,035,275	3,263,175
Termination costs	181,499	-
Other staffing costs	1,480,061	2,225,196
	7,660,167	8,738,802

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding pension costs) during the year between:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
£60,000 - £69,999	6	5
£70,000 - £79,999	6	3
£80,000 - £89,999	5	6
£90,000 - £99,999	1	2
£130,000 - £139,999	1	-

Included within Other staffing costs are fees payable to programme and non-programme consultants of £1,256,823 (2024: £1,355,953).

Total employee benefits including pension contribution and employer's national insurance for key management personnel were £814,670 (2024: £862,515).

Redundancy and termination payments totalled £181,499 in 2025 (2024: £nil).

The charity trustees were not paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023: £nil).
No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £nil).
Trustees' expenses represents the reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs totalling £6,861.54 (2024: £6,773) relating to attendance mainly at International Board meetings.

6 Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Fundraising	4	4
Africa projects	24	21
Asia projects	25	29
Latin America projects	56	63
Law & Policy projects	6	10
Europe & Central Asia projects	8	13
Middle East & North Africa projects	10	18
Global projects	17	11
	150	169

7 Grants to partners

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cambodian Center for Human Rights	-	9,035
Chayatal Bangladesh	36,766	-
Digital Security Lab Ukraine	197,297	38,651
Free Press Unlimited	-	83,801
International Commission of Jurists	4,437	76,418
Internews Europe	-	16,166
Justice Center for Legal Aid	-	25,494
Open Culture Foundation	-	46,948
Open Net	20,276	44,809
Peter & Moreau	-	26,719
Rights for Justice Foundation	-	81,450
Stichting Hivos	-	5,601
St. World Benchmarking Alliance Foundation	-	67,480
Switch Bangladesh Foundation	28,921	-
The Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation	26,275	38,064
Small grants	165,080	340,248
Confidential partners	665,907	787,626
	1,144,959	1,688,510

Small grants include grants to partners below £25,000 in the year.
Confidential partners are organisations which need to remain anonymous due to the sensitive nature of their work.

8 Related party transactions

None.

9 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and applied for charitable purposes.

10 Fixed assets

	Computer equipment	Office equipment	Fixtures & Fittings	**Total**
The group	£	£	£	**£**
Tangible fixed assets				
Cost or valuation				
At the start of the year	286,752	153,780	63,391	**503,923**
Additions in the period	10,032	6,276	-	**16,308**
Revaluation of foreign currency asset	(5,106)	(44,396)	-	**(49,502)**
At the end of the year	291,678	115,660	**63,391**	**470,729**
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	189,317	105,296	28,526	**323,139**
Charge for the period	41,145	(20,305)	12,678	**33,518**
Revaluation of foreign currency asset	15,433	(20,092)	-	**(4,659)**
At the end of the year	245,895	64,899	**41,204**	**351,998**
Net book value at the end of the year	45,783	50,761	**22,187**	**118,731**
Net book value at the start of the year	97,435	48,484	34,863	180,782
The charity				
Tangible fixed assets				
Cost or valuation				
At the start of the year	218,484	56,606	63,391	**338,481**
Additions in the period	2,709	8	-	**2,717**
Revaluation of foreign currency asset	(9,072)	(14,912)	-	**(23,984)**
At the end of the year	212,121	41,702	63,391	**317,214**
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	141,789	47,014	28,526	**217,329**
Charge for the period	26,052	(9,542)	12,678	**29,188**
Revaluation of foreign currency asset	(1,012)	(1,163)	-	**(2,175)**
At the end of the year	166,829	36,309	41,204	**244,342**
Net book value at the end of the year	45,292	5,393	22,187	**72,872**
Net book value at the start of the year	76,696	9,592	34,865	121,153

11 Subsidiary undertaking -
ARTICLE 19 Mexico and Central America (Campaña Global por la libertad de expression)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Turnover	2,813,551	2,441,147
Income from ARTICLE 19	95,042	49,182
Expenditure	(1,461,402)	(2,105,385)
Total incoming resources for the year	1,447,191	384,944
Funds held		
Total funds brought forward	2,600,277	2,215,333
Total incoming resources for the year	1,447,191	384,944
Total funds carried forward	4,047,468	2,600,277
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and reserves was:		
Assets	4,162,369	2,754,904
Liabilities	(114,900)	(154,627)
Funds	4,047,469	2,600,277

Amounts owed from the parent undertaking are shown in note 15.

12 Subsidiary undertaking -
ARTICLE 19 Brazil and South America (ARTIGO 19 Brasil)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Turnover	1,255,579	830,305
Income from ARTICLE 19	105,167	127,511
Expenditure	(991,926)	(947,124)
Total incoming resources for the year	368,820	10,692
Funds held		
Total funds brought forward	20,369	9,677
Total incoming resources for the year	368,820	10,692
Total funds carried forward	389,189	20,369
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and reserves was:		
Assets	498,390	273,929
Liabilities	(109,203)	(264,252)
Funds	389,187	9,677

Amounts owed from the parent undertaking are shown in note 15.

13 Subsidiary undertaking -
ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa

	2025	2024
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Turnover	558,421	436,141
Income from ARTICLE 19	136,942	183,677
Expenditure	(487,936)	(432,791)
Total incoming resources for the year	207,427	187,027
Funds held		
Total funds brought forward	209,087	22,060
Total incoming resources for the year	207,427	187,027
Total funds carried forward	416,514	209,087
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and reserves was:		
Assets	502,505	281,396
Liabilities	(85,992)	(72,330)
Funds	416,513	209,066

Amounts owed from the parent undertaking are shown in note 15.

14 Subsidiary undertaking - ARTICLE 19 Netherlands

	2025 £	2024 £
Incoming resources		
Turnover	803,708	547,589
Income from ARTICLE 19	-	-
Expenditure	(982,351)	(1,211,204)
Total incoming resources for the year	(178,643)	- 663,615
Funds held		
Total funds brought forward	20,592	684,207
Total incoming resources for the year	(178,643)	(663,615)
Total funds carried forward	(158,051)	20,592
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and reserves was:		
Assets	81,182	176,492
Liabilities	(239,234)	(155,900)
Funds	- 158,052	20,592

Amounts owed from the parent undertaking are shown in note 15.

15 Parent charity

The parent charity's gross income and the results for the year are disclosed as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross income	9,555,047	10,375,223
Result for the year	811,527	(168,120)

16 Debtors

	The group		The charity	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024 Restated
	£	£	**£**	£
Trade debtors	1,043,916	106,090	1,024,932	106,090
Prepayments	207,816	239,752	153,442	192,941
Accrued income	13,145	302,647	11,798	237,947
Other debtors	97,760	115,860	79,969	30,304
Intercompany	-	-	302,886	214,125
	1,362,637	**764,349**	**1,573,027**	**781,407**

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	The group		The charity	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024 Restated
	£	£	**£**	£
Trade creditors	164,625	487,855	149,438	433,633
Taxation and social security	197,792	160,782	132,302	93,016
Pension contributions due	41,857	19,881	39,724	20,156
Deferred income (note 18)	118,058	153,125	118,058	29,268
Accruals	71,359	88,004	51,011	72,065
Other creditors	706,650	699,226	563,369	527,753
Intercompany	-	-	-	-
	1,300,341	**1,608,873**	**1,053,902**	**1,175,891**

18 Deferred income

Deferred income consists of a balanced owed from ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa to ARTICLE 19, and Brazilian deferred income

	The group		The charity	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024
	£	£	**£**	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	153,125	29,268	29,268	29,268
Income deferred in the year	88,790	123,857	88,790	-
Amount released to income in the year	(123,857)	-	-	-
Balance at the end of the year	**118,058**	**153,125**	**118,058**	**29,268**

19 Pension scheme

The charity has a defined contribution pension scheme with Scottish Widows for UK employees.
The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund with Scottish Widows.
The pension costs represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund in the year and amounted to £197,114 (2024: £218,112) (see note 5).
Contributions totalling £41,857 (2024: £19,881) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors (see note 17).

20a Analysis of group net assets between funds - current year

	General unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	118,731	-	**118,731**
Net current assets	1,254,819	-	7,673,842	**8,928,661**
Net assets at the end of the year	**1,254,819**	**118,731**	**7,673,842**	**9,047,392**

20b Analysis of group net assets between funds - prior year

	General unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	180,784	-	**180,784**
Net current assets	821,331	-	5,388,975	**6,210,286**
Net assets at the end of the year	**821,331**	**180,784**	**5,388,975**	**6,391,070**

21a Movement in group funds - current year

	At 1 January 2025	Income & gains	Expenditure & losses	Transfers	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Cost of raising funds	(4,369)	-	(1,613)	-	(5,982)
Africa projects	215,729	822,749	(565,474)	-	473,004
Asia projects	469,454	859,234	(870,232)	-	458,456
Latin America projects	1,492,606	3,218,228	(1,745,113)	-	2,965,721
Law & Policy projects	53,479	- 121,352	(341,836)	-	(409,709)
Europe & Central Asia projects	(268,393)	2,138,709	(1,569,470)	-	300,846
Middle East & North Africa projects	269,777	1,191,712	(1,153,028)	-	308,461
Global Thematic projects	3,160,692	2,594,019	(2,171,666)	-	3,583,045
Total restricted funds	**5,388,975**	**10,703,299**	**(8,418,432)**	**-**	**7,673,842**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds: fixed asset fund	180,784	- 62,053	-	-	118,731
General funds	821,311	4,682,211	(4,248,703)	-	1,254,819
Total unrestricted funds	**1,002,095**	**4,620,158**	**(4,248,703)**	**-**	**1,373,550**
Total funds	**6,391,070**	**15,323,457**	**(12,667,135)**	**-**	**9,047,392**

21b Movement in group funds - prior year

	At 1 January 2024	Income & gains	Expenditure & losses	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:			-		-
Africa projects	58,388	544,805	(387,464)	-	215,729
Asia projects	357,647	1,815,507	(1,703,700)	-	469,454
Latin America projects	1,520,180	2,559,627	(2,587,201)	-	1,492,606
Law & Policy projects	(614,190)	1,020,491	(352,822)	-	53,479
Europe & Central Asia projects	315,430	999,672	(1,583,495)	-	(268,393)
Middle East & North Africa projects	469,626	1,039,405	(1,239,254)	-	269,777
Global Thematic projects	3,151,157	2,605,256	(2,595,721)	-	3,160,692
Total restricted funds	**5,258,238**	**10,584,763**	**(10,449,657)**	**-**	**5,393,344**
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds: fixed asset fund	122,541	58,243	-	-	180,784
General funds	1,263,567	4,347,768	(4,790,024)	-	821,311
Total unrestricted funds	**1,386,108**	**4,406,011**	**(4,790,024)**	**-**	**1,002,095**
Total funds	**6,644,346**	**14,990,774**	**(15,239,681)**	**-**	**6,395,439**

Purpose of restricted funds

Represents funds received from donors relating to agreed projects. The funds will cover expenditure planned for the following financial year.
The split of the restricted funds represents the location where expenditure has taken place, but not necessarily which ARTICLE 19 entity signed the grant agreement.
The restricted balances which are in deficit in 2024 is due to spending on grants where the income is not due from the donor until 2024, and/or income recognised under *Global Thematic projects* while expenditure is incurred across different teams.

Purpose of designated funds

The designated fund is matched against the net book value of the fixed assets of the charity, which are not readily realisable.

22 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period	2,656,319	(249,074)
(as per the statement of financial activities)		
Depreciation charges	33,518	40,375
Foreign exchange (gains)	192,133	70,671
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(598,288)	231,745
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(308,532)	259,971
Net cash provided by operating activities	**1,975,150**	**353,688**

23 Analysis of group cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 January 2025	Cash flows	Other changes	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand	3,162	3,507	-	6,669
Cash at bank	7,051,649	1,808,048	-	8,859,697
Total cash and cash equivalents	**7,054,810**	**1,811,555**	**-**	**8,866,365**

24 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows for each of the following periods:

	Property		**Equipment**	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024
	£	£	**£**	£
Less than one year	123,044	98,265	**2,058**	**-**
One to five years	80,778	162,141	**1,200**	**-**
	203,822	260,406	**3,258**	-

25 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital.
The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

26 Income from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

	2025 Total	**2025 Total**	2024 Total	**2024 Total**
	SEK	**£**	**SEK**	**£**
Income received	24,000,000	1,771,869	26,000,000	1,942,501
	24,000,000	**1,771,869**	**26,000,000**	**1,942,501**

27 Income from The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

	2025 Total	**2025 Total**	2024 Total	**2024 Total**
	NOK	**£**	**NOK**	**£**
Income received	10,333,000	754,593	10,000,000	725,111
	10,333,000	**754,593**	**10,000,000**	**725,111**

28 Post balance sheet events

None