

Charity Commission No: 100329



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024**

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024  
CHARITY INFORMATION**

**Board of Trustees**

Ciaran McShane  
Dearbhla McGuone  
Aoife Heaney  
Grainne Kelly  
John Toner  
Claire McGinn

**Chair**

Claire McGinn

**Secretary**

Grainne Kelly

**Registered Office**

Accidental Theatre Company  
12-13 Shaftesbury Square  
Belfast  
County Antrim  
BT2 7DB

**Principal Bankers**

Danske Bank  
PO Box 183  
Donegall Square West  
Belfast  
BT1 6JS

**Charity Commission Number**

100329

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024  
CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Trustees' Annual Report</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Independent Examiner's Report</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Statement of Receipts and Payments</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>	<b>5</b>

# **FRIENDS OF AFRICA**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024**

The Trustees' present their report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

#### **Objective and Activities**

The objectives of Friends of Africa are:

- Educate the beneficiaries (beneficiaries refers to young people in Africa and Ireland) in any charitable way, but in particular by creating opportunities for young people in Ireland to take part in voluntary work in Africa on projects that will benefit young people in Africa;
- To assist the beneficiaries to help develop their physical, mental, and spiritual capacities so that they may develop to full maturity as individuals;
- To provide assistance to our beneficiaries so that their conditions of life may be improved and by developing qualities in our beneficiaries through service to the community in Africa;
- To promote racial harmony between young people in Ireland and Africa by promoting awareness of diverse issues, spirituality, and culture;
- To assist in the advancement of community development programmes for people living in Africa, which will enhance their future opportunities and conditions of life; and
- To support the means of voluntary work and financial assistance to various charitable projects for the prevention or relief of poverty, the advancement of education, and the preservation and protection of health in Africa.

#### **Trustees**

The following Trustees served during the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024:

- Ciaran McShane
- Dearbhla McGuone
- Shannon Heffron (resigned February 2024)
- Aoife Heaney
- Grainne Kelly
- John Toner
- Claire McGinn

#### **Achievements and Performance**

Friends of Africa has continued to grow in terms of impact and membership. There have been many areas of development such as Racial Justice Training, developing a framework to address racism as members and an organisation which was a pivotal focus point for the charity throughout the year.

We undertook a Moderation and Evaluation trip to South Africa and Botswana to visit established partners in Tsholofelo and potential new partners in Botswana. Whilst we didn't manage to align with any new partnerships, at the end of June our Chair stepped down and committed to 6 months, volunteering within the Tsholofelo community.

The Global Solidarity programme (GSP), which involved 6 members heading to South Africa to facilitate a youth work camp in the Tsholofelo community alongside local volunteers, was a great success. Individual fundraisers generated much needed funds to be passed on to our partners.

There were various activities throughout the year. 16 members completed their OCN youth level 2. In the Christmas gift appeal, 42 backpacks and vouchers were delivered to people living in temporary accommodation in Belfast on 20th December. Individual members organised fundraisers, raising £5,000 for the Tsholofelo community projects which focus on skills development for adult learners. The annual Fundraiser took place in Achill where members and friends took on the "Tri-achill on" challenge, cycling, hiking and Kayaking.

Grants secured included Dungiven parish, Belfast Harbour, and the Big Lotto fund of £19,950 which will fund the "Warm Welcome Programme."

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024**

As it stands, we have 131 members, which is continuously growing and allows the organisation to keep moving forward and supporting people at home and in Africa.

The board continues to meet regularly and deal with all the legal and statutory requirements for charities.

The Trustees of Friends of Africa have complied with their duty to have due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

**Financial Review**

Reserves are at a level to meet the working capital requirements of the charity.

Neither during the year nor at the balance sheet date, was any fund in deficit.

**Structure, Governance, and Management**

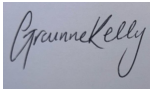
The charity is governed by its constitution.

Trustees are appointed as required, and in accordance with the constitution.

**Responsibilities of the Trustees**

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable legislation. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on .....<sup>10/06/25</sup>..... and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
**Secretary**

# **FRIENDS OF AFRICA**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

### **ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

I report on the accounts of Friends of Africa for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

#### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

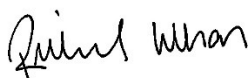
My role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act;
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; and
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### **Independent examiner's qualified statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, which is one of the listed bodies.



**Richard Whan** FCA  
Chartered Accountant

Date: 10/06/25  
Date: .....

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies		3,764	10,000	13,764	17,965
Charitable activities		-	42,194	42,194	44,228
Other trading activities		45,120	-	45,120	12,105
<b>Total</b>		<b>48,885</b>	<b>52,194</b>	<b>101,078</b>	<b>74,298</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		17,232	-	17,232	10,455
Charitable activities	1	-	66,637	66,637	98,857
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,232</b>	<b>66,637</b>	<b>83,869</b>	<b>109,312</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>31,653</b>	<b>(14,443)</b>	<b>17,210</b>	<b>(35,014)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>(34,393)</b>	<b>34,393</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movements in funds</b>		<b>(2,740)</b>	<b>19,950</b>	<b>17,210</b>	<b>(35,014)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		86,964	-	86,964	121,978
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>84,224</b>	<b>19,950</b>	<b>104,174</b>	<b>86,964</b>

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024**

	<b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2024</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>Bank and cash balances</u></b>		
Danske bank current	106,805	83,835
BOI volunteer account	-	2,457
AIB account	672	672
Danske credit card	(204)	-
	<b>107,273</b>	<b>86,964</b>
<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
Creditor balances	(3,099)	-
	<b>(3,099)</b>	-
<b><u>Net assets</u></b>	<b><u>104,174</u></b>	<b><u>86,964</u></b>

Approved by the trustees on <sup>10/06/25</sup> ..... and signed on their behalf by:

  
 .....  
**Chair**

  
 .....  
**Secretary**

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2024**

**Note 1 – Expenditure on charitable activities**

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<i>Direct costs</i>				
Direct expenditure on projects	-	28,735	28,735	62,644
	-	28,735	28,735	62,644
	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<i>Costs in support of charitable activities</i>				
Staff costs	-	29,311	29,311	27,260
Insurance	-	958	958	1,602
Website costs	-	613	613	527
Telephone and internet	-	757	757	694
Training	-	2,723	2,723	1,944
Rent	-	2,035	2,035	3,050
Audit and accountancy fees	-	780	780	-
Software	-	90	90	180
Printing, postage, stationery	-	-	-	648
Bank fees	-	635	635	308
	-	37,902	37,902	36,213
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,637</b>	<b>66,637</b>	<b>98,857</b>