

# THE BLOODY SUNDAY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019)

#### **Objectives and activities**

The Bloody Sunday Trust is a community based education and history organisation that was established with the aim of exploring the recent troubled history of the City of Derry as a means of enhancing respect and understanding for Human Rights, and promoting mutual understanding through the honest examination of our past, with particular reference to events during the past 60 years.

The objects of the charity as stated in the Memorandum of Association are the advancement of the education of the general public to raise greater awareness and understanding of their heritage and to compile and hold in trust archival materials and artefacts publicly accessible and displayed in the Museum of Free Derry in the advancement of human and civil rights, tolerance and diversity throughout the island of Ireland and internationally.

#### *Public benefit*

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

#### *Activities*

Our current primary activities are the dignified remembrance of Bloody Sunday on behalf of the Bloody Sunday Families in their quest for truth and justice, and to create a proper legacy for Bloody Sunday and the Civil Rights Era. The charity has established a trading subsidiary, Museum of Free Derry Ltd, to operate the Museum of Free Derry Limited. Bloody Sunday Trust will continue to support the on-going development of the museum through exploring funding opportunities.

#### **Achievements and performance**

##### *Significant activities and achievements against objectives*

The Bloody Sunday Trust focused its strategic direction in the development of the Museum of Free Derry as a key tourism provider in the city and secondly branding the cities role in conflict transformation both nationally and internationally. This involved a significance programme of remembrance in both June and January as well as the development of the second Derry Peace and Conflict International week scheduled September 2024.

BST continued to deliver its schools outreach project and shared history programme during this period. BST in this period maintained offices in a city Centre location.

In 2023/24 the Trust:

- Maintained its staff team at 13 since last Annual General.
- New BsT offices: Bishop Street operational and working well since October 2023
- Membership of Friends of Bloody Sunday Trust relaunched Jan 2023 ; currently 222 members.

Review of current strategic plan and completion of BST strategic plan 2023 – 2028 :

- Northwest Civil Rights Archive: Successful application to Heritage Lottery Fund for four-year project (one year development, 3 years delivery). Management group and advisory group established
- Derry Peace and conflict international Summer School ; Scheduled 23rd September for a week. 15 anti Zionist/ campaigners from USA recruited and programme developed.
- Palestine : Consolidation Partnership PNI: / Irish anti apartheid Campaign Membership Delivery of Nakba Day, Palestinian Vigils, Production of Kaifiya's, postcards and badges: Total donated to Palestinian causes : £17,266

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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- Tourism bodies : M Mc Laughlin appointed as Director of Visit Derry. Ongoing engagements with Tourism NI , Tourism Ireland and Economy Minister following visit to MOFD. Lobby to have Political Tourism included in new Tourism Strategy and the positioning of the Museum as a key economic driver. Regular attendance at Meet the Buyer events with new Destination Management Companies engaged. MoFD now brand aligned with TNI
- Events coordination: Delivery of Jan, June anniversary plus ongoing annual programme of events: Staff review of Jan anniversary programme completed. Online booking system established and focus given to merchandise and online shop

#### Programme outputs:

- TEO Good Relations Schools Project 22/23- 479 participants
- Urban Villages 22/23 – 544 participants
- Awards For All Creative History 22/23 – 103 participants
- DFA Derry Model 22/23 - 161
- Total - 1287

#### Specific achievements and performance indicators included:

- Museum of Free Derry Visitor numbers 42,295 visitors
- Funding secured £162,532.69
- Delivery of June 2022 international week and development of Derry Peace and Conflict International Brand
- Exceeded strategic targets in admissions and commercial income
- Progressed NW Civil Rights Archive towards NI Heritage Lottery Fund application
- Position of Museum as Key economic driver for City
- Appointment as Director Visit Derry

#### Financial review

Total income for the year was £367,668, received in respect of the Bloody Sunday Trust and the Museum of Free Derry, £240,479 was grant funding for educational and conflict resolution programme activities, £20,000 in respect of management charges for administration of Museum of Free Derry and £28,133 was from voluntary donations. Gift aid payments received from the charity's trading subsidiary, Museum of Free Derry Ltd, amounted to £66,169.

Total expenditure was £419,213, all of which was in relation to programme delivery and costs associated with charitable activities. Included within expenditure is an amount of £75,143 in respect of grant claims outstanding written off in respect of ineligible expenditure associated with the Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding Programme funded by the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) between January 2018 and March 2022. Funding was claimed on an arrears basis based on expenditure incurred, and this funding was recognised within income in the financial statements in the period that expenditure associated with the project was incurred. As at 31 March 2023, an amount of £143,393 was included within grants receivable debtors in respect of grant claims not yet to the charity paid in respect of this project. SEUPB have now reviewed all outstanding claims and have deemed these claims to include ineligible expenditure. Therefore an adjustment has been recognised in the financial statements in the amount of £75,143 to agree the grants receivable amount as at 31 March 2024 to the value of the claims certified by SEUPB.

The balance on total funds at the year-end was £190,728, of which £81,003 were restricted in nature and £109,725 were unrestricted funds.

#### *Reserves policy*

The Trustees consider it prudent to hold monies in reserve in the event that unforeseen circumstances should lead to financial difficulties which might put the future of its employment capacity, general charitable work and property in jeopardy.

The Trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation and established a formal policy which stipulates that free reserves be maintained at a level which ensures that the charity's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. Free reserves are defined by the Trustees as unrestricted income funds freely available for use as the charity so determines and thereby excludes any funds committed, invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity and restricted or designated funds.

# THE BLOODY SUNDAY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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The Trustees' policy is that the amount of unrestricted income funds should reflect a minimum of three months' core expenditure. The Trustees' assessment of core costs (excluding programme activities which are funded from grants, depreciation and non-recurring expenditure) amounts to £190,000, therefore the target level of reserves is £47,500.

Unrestricted funds as at 31st March 2024 are £109,725 of which £102,384 are free reserves, therefore the Trustees are pleased to confirm that the charity is compliant with its reserves policy. The Trustees continue to strive to build a general level of free reserves in accordance with their policy so that they will be able to continue the current activities of the charity. In the short term, the Trustees have also considered the extent to which existing activities should be curtailed, should circumstances arise.

#### *Major risks*

The Trustees are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised through the procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the group. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. These procedures are reviewed periodically to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

#### **Plans for future periods**

BST will continue to work with National Lottery Heritage fund in the development of the NW Civil Rights Archive. It is our intention that the archive will be developed as a national civil rights archive across the island.

Derry Peace and Conflict International - BST delivered its first international summer school in June 2023 with an objective of hosting annual international schools exploring the lessons and learnings of conflict transformation as a blueprint for other countries.

#### Next steps

- Strategic plan 2023 – 2028 Delivery of five strategic objectives
- Delivery of January and June anniversary dates and continuous review of Events delivery
- Funding priorities towards salary costs and events coordination.
- Schools Outreach (Donegal/ All Ireland )
- Derry Model work with local participants
- Investment in social media and marketing
- Funding Opportunities: Peace Plus, Shared Islands, International Fund Ireland , Big Lottery
- Consolidation of Partnership with Palestinian National Initiative and Palestine Medical Relief Society
- Position Museum as a key economic driver: relationships Visit Derry, Tourism Ireland, Tourism NI

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The Bloody Sunday Trust is a company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 14 June 2000. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company, and is governed by its Articles of Association. The liability of members is limited in that every member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 in the event of the company being wound up.

# THE BLOODY SUNDAY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Tony Doherty (Chairperson)

Susan Harkin (Treasurer)

Robin Percival

Colm Barton

Gerry Duddy

Aisling Hutton

Brian Tierney

Mary Thompson

Patrick Armstrong

Deirdre McDaid

John McKinney

Padraig Delargy

Paul Laughlin

Sean Mooney

(Appointed 8 May 2024)

#### *Recruitment and appointment of trustees*

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, at each Annual General Meeting, one quarter of the Trustees shall retire from office, determined by those who have been longest serving since their last election. All retiring directors are eligible for re-election.

The Trustees regularly discuss the needs of the current board and identify gaps in knowledge and expertise. Individuals are proposed that could be invited by the Trustees and those agreed are invited to join the board. This process is under ongoing review, and there has been some discussion of setting up a form of publicly proposed/elected mechanism for a percentage of Trustees.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

#### *Organisational structure*

The Bloody Sunday Trust has a Board of Trustees which meets quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Trustees are from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. During the year, a total of 14 Trustees served on the Board. At the year end the Board was made up of 13 Trustees.

A scheme of delegation is in place and responsibility for the provision of services rests with the Museum Manager, who is responsible for the day to day operational management of the charity.

# THE BLOODY SUNDAY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Bloody Sunday Trust for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply 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 charity 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 charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

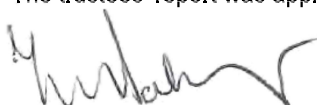
### Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Moore (NI) LLP be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

### Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Tony Doherty (Chairperson)  
**Trustee**



Susan Harkin (Treasurer)  
**Trustee**

29 January 2025