

Charity registered number: NIC108056

RETHINKING CONFLICT
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Tony Clarke
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

RETHINKING CONFLICT

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Trustees' Annual Report

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Rethinking Conflict

Registered Charity number

NIC108056

PUBLIC ADDRESS

Rev. Dr. Gary Mason

Po Box 2328

Belfast

BT5 9GX

CHAIRPERSON

Debbie Watters

TRUSTEES

Debbie Watters

Marisa Louise McMahon

John Mcgrath

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Tony Clarke FCPA

53 Andersonstown Road

Belfast

BT11 9AG

Trustees' Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees present their report and the unaudited the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines.

In this report the trustees of Rethinking Conflict present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 December 2023. The charity is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and, although not obliged to comply with the statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendation where relevant in these financial statements.

Appointment of Trustees

The Trustees of Rethinking Conflict meet four times a year, with an AGM held in May/June. The Trustees recruit and select new Trustees as needed. They are recruited on the relevance of their knowledge, skills and experience, and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the organisation. Trustees serve one year and may be re-elected at the AGM.

Anne Walsh retired in September 2023 and we are deeply grateful for her wisdom and guidance since the organisation's inception. She was replaced by Marissa McMahon.

Charity Purpose

Rethinking Conflict aims to work in current zones of conflict and post conflict using the principles of conflict transformation, peace building and reconciliation to develop new and lasting relationships. We also work with individuals and organisations in the area of dealing with conflicted situations.

We currently work in three main geographic spaces – Northern Ireland, the Middle East (Israel and Palestine) and the United States of America.

The overall direct benefit from our work is increased dialogue and discussion between people from different religious, cultural and/or racial backgrounds, leading to greater understanding, tolerance and acceptance, which results in meaningful relationships and reconciliation.

Activities and Achievements

In setting RTC's objectives and planning our activities the trustees have given careful consideration to the charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities help to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Trustees' Annual Report (continued)

Activities and Achievements continued...

2023 was a very worthwhile and successful year for our organisation, our global networks are increasing on a regular basis, and we have been able to develop some very strategic relationships globally. The highlights of the year included:

Our Dialogue Weekends continue to go exceptionally well. These are quiet below the radar conversations with those in the Republic of Ireland focusing on some of the outstanding issues of the peace process with colleagues in Northern Ireland.

The growth and ongoing development of our Compass Points dialogue group, which is now numbering up to 80 people from across the island of Ireland, wrestling with a number of issues from legacy, dealing with the past, sectarianism. We finished 2023 with a look at the Israeli Palestinian conflict and its impact on wider society. We were able to have several key people in the room as well as a virtually bringing in key actors from both the Palestinian and Israeli region.

The Emerging Young Leaders group continues to be a real success story for us. One of the main goals of this group is developing and passing the skills of conflict transformation and peace building to another generation. We had several different sessions and evenings together and one of those looked at the Good Friday Agreement and what the next 25 years holds for that generation, as our peace process continues to be implemented.

One of the goals of our organisation is sharing lessons from the northern Irish peace process with wider groups globally. We hosted several groups from the Israeli-Palestinian region as well as groups from the United States exploring political and religious polarisation. These groups include academics, students, churches, politicians, civic leaders and meetings with a wide range of key actors in our peace process.

The organisation was able to make two visits to the Middle East continuing our work in the Israeli-Palestinian region. Unfortunately, because of the outbreak of the conflict in October, our Emerging Young Leaders group was not able to go to the region and we hope to complete this visit at some stage, in the autumn of 2024 depending on circumstances on the ground. We continue to support conflict transformation colleagues and peace building in colleagues on both sides of this very difficult conflict and have facilitated a number of encounters virtually. Our main visit to the United States was conducted late summer early autumn. The Executive Director is an adjunct Professor at the Candler School of theology at Emory University in Atlanta. He is also an affiliated expert and partner to the Negotiation Strategies Institute at Harvard university for Israelis and Palestinians and a visiting academic at the University of Central Florida in conflict transformation, political violence and negotiation. The executive director has continued to build a relationship with the Carter centre in Atlanta and is now a consultant to this leading global organisation in the area of religious and political polarisation. All of these positions provide us with access and connections to experience academics and experts which in turn supports our ongoing work in the Irish context, the Middle East as well as lessons from our peace process in dealing with our colleagues in the United States.

Trustees' Annual Report (continued)

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

Financial Review

The results for the year ended 31 December 2023 are set out on pages 8 and 9 of the financial statements.

The total income for the year ended 31 December 2023 amounted to £341,897 (2022: £214,998). The total expenditure was £352,270 (2022: £280,948)

The Trustees consider that the unrestricted funds of the charity is sufficient and adequate to fulfil their obligations. The charity held £63,267 in reserves at the year end (2022: £63,026).

Reserves Policy

The income of the charity is considered adequate and the risks associated with any significant reduction in income is regarded as unlikely. The Trustees are satisfied with the current level of reserves at the present time. The Trustees are reviewing the Reserves Policy in the current year.

Trustees' Annual Report (continued)

Trustees' responsibilities statement

As the charity's trustees we are aware of our responsibilities for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is also our responsibility to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with CCNI guidelines. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence to take reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on 14/12/24 and signed on behalf by:



Debbie Watters

Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RETHINKING CONFLICT

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 7 and 8.

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body in accordance with section 65(3)(a) of the Charities Act Northern Ireland 2008 and regulations made under section 66 of the Act. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work of this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and is eligible for Independent examination.

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 Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- 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 my 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 was also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

Independent examiner's statement

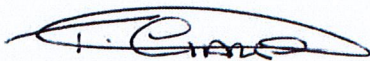
My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

- 1 That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
- 2 That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
- 3 That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice
- 4 That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RETHINKING CONFLICT (continued)

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Certified Public Accountants Association which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed on page 6 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.



04/12/2024

Tony Clarke FCPA
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

Date:

RETHINKING CONFLICT
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year to 31-Dec-23 TOTAL £	Year to 31-Dec-22 TOTAL £
Income from:					
Donations and Legacies	2	127,442	762	128,204	108,598
Charitable Activities	3	-	213,692	213,692	106,400
Total Income		127,442	214,454	341,897	214,998
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	5	159,911	192,359	352,270	280,948
Total expenditure:		159,911	192,359	352,270	280,948
Net income/(expenditure)		(32,469)	22,096	(10,373)	(65,950)
Transfers between funds		32,710	(32,710)	-	-
Net movement in funds		241	(10,614)	(10,373)	(65,950)
<u>Reconciliation of funds</u>					
Total funds brought forward		63,026	158,919	221,945	287,895
Total funds carried forward		63,267	148,304	211,571	221,945

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

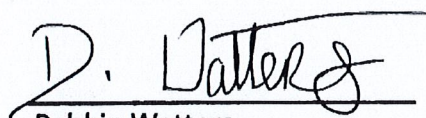
The notes on page 10 to 16 form an integral part of these accounts

RETHINKING CONFLICT
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2023

	Note	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Cash at bank		220,001	225,949
		<u>220,001</u>	<u>225,949</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(8,430)</u>	<u>(4,005)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>211,571</u>	<u>221,944</u>
Total Assets Less Current (Liabilities)		<u>211,571</u>	<u>221,944</u>
Net assets		<u>211,571</u>	<u>221,945</u>
Funds			
Restricted		148,304	158,919
Unrestricted		63,267	63,026
TOTAL FUNDS	10	<u>211,571</u>	<u>221,945</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees on 4/12/24 and were signed on their behalf by:


 Debbie Watters
 Trustee

The notes on page 10 to 16 form and integral part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Rethinking Conflict meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised as historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

(b) General information

Rethinking Conflict is a charity in Northern Ireland. The registered office address and principal place of business is Po Box 2328, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT5 9GX.

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£). The level of rounding is £1.

(c) Going concern

After reviewing the charities forecasts and projections, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

(d) Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income. It is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the charity of the item is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

(e) Income continued

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would be willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investments income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

(f) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party. It is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The cost of each activity are made up of the total direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on the basis consistent with the use of resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

(g) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of the asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of the fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments, impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account.

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Equipment	-	15% Reducing Balance
Land and Buildings	-	20 year lease term

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

(h) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

(i) Debtors

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

(j) Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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 of similar account.

(k) Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount at the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of these amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discounted rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within the interest payable and similar charges.

(l) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualifies 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.

(m) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for the use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

2 <u>Income from Donations and Legacies</u>	2023			2022
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL £	TOTAL £
General Income	72,296	-	72,296	54,595
Grants	8,632	-	8,632	32,359
Reimbursements	46,514	762	47,276	21,644
Totals 2023	127,442	762	128,204	108,598
Totals 2022	26,219	-	26,219	

3 <u>Income from Charitable Activities</u>	2023			2022
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL £	TOTAL £
Department of Foreign Affairs	-	37,675	37,675	56,400
Emergence Foundation	-	21,017	21,017	-
Esmee Fairbairn	-	60,000	60,000	50,000
Porticus	-	95,000	95,000	-
Totals 2023	-	213,692	213,692	106,400
Totals 2022	115,113	302,246	417,359	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

4 Staff Costs and Numbers

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Gross Wages and Salaries	105,850	96,591
Social Security Costs	12,553	12,229
Pension	9,076	3708
	<u>127,478</u>	<u>112,528</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2023: None)

The average monthly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	Number	Number
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

5 Expenditure

	<u>2023</u>			<u>2022</u>
Charitable Activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	£	£
	£	£		
Accommodation	18,842	18,961	37,803	23,338
Administration, Conference & Evaluation	2,091	3,925	6,016	7,606
Emerging Young Leaders	1,065	8,742	9,807	-
Facilitation	500	2,500	3,000	15,318
General & Other Expenses	84,573	827	85,400	60,739
Hospitality/Catering	9,398	2,426	11,824	13,141
Insurance & Miscellaneous	1,133	-	1,133	1,115
Mentoring	-	15,650	15,650	3,018
Office & IT Expense	3,485	778	4,263	-
Payroll & Professional	14,001	113,478	127,478	112,528
Seminar	2,278	13,186	15,464	17,502
Telephone	1,981	-	1,981	1,206
Travel and Meetings	19,414	8,646	28,060	21,285
Accountancy	1,115	3,240	4,355	4,140
Bank Fees	35	-	35	13
Total 2023	<u>159,911</u>	<u>192,359</u>	<u>352,270</u>	<u>280,948</u>
Total 2022	<u>192,636</u>	<u>88,312</u>	<u>280,948</u>	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

6 Trustees remuneration & expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2022- £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2022- £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2022- £NIL).

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Accruals & Deferred Income	-	-
HMRC PAYE & Pension	8,430	4,005
Other Creditors	-	-
Total 2023	<u><u>8,430</u></u>	<u><u>4,005</u></u>

8 Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent Examiner's remuneration amounts to an Independent Examination fee of £360 (2022- £360)

9 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

RETHINKING CONFLICT
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

10 Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Department of Foreign Affairs	56,400	37,675	(47,702)	(8,698)	37,675
Emergence Foundation	(7,165)	21,017	-	(13,852)	-
Esmee Fairbairn	33,134	60,000	(49,575)	(3,800)	39,759
Porticus	76,550	95,762	(95,082)	(6,360)	70,870
Total restricted funds	158,919	214,454	(192,359)	(32,710)	148,304
Unrestricted funds					
General	63,026	127,442	(160,982)	32,710	62,196
Total Unrestricted funds	63,026	127,442	(160,982)	32,710	62,196
Total of funds - current year	221,945	341,897	(353,341)	-	210,500

11 Statement of fund - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at 31 December 2022
Total unrestricted funds	33,981	108,438	(88,312)	8,919	63,026
Total restricted funds	253,914	106,560	(192,636)	(8,919)	158,919
Total of funds - prior year	287,895	214,998	(280,948)	-	221,945