

Charity registered number: NIC108056

RETHINKING CONFLICT
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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RETHINKING CONFLICT

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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 2024.

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 2024. 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.

The Rev. David Kerr retired in February 2024 and we are deeply grateful for her wisdom and guidance since the organisation's inception. He was replaced by John McGrath.

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...

2024 was a very strategic and busy year for our organisation, our global networks are increasing on a regular basis, there is immense interest globally in the NI peace process and we have hosted this year some very significant groups looking at lesson form the NI peace process. 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, these conversations have been exceptional in the last year, dealing with some of the protracted and outstanding issues of our peace process and we're very positive and constructive.

The growth and ongoing development of our Compass Points dialogue group, which is now numbering up to 100 people from across the island of Ireland. We debated and wrestled with a number of issues in 2024, from the scourge of drugs post conflict, in May President Jimmy Carter's Centre sent a sizeable delegation of both Republicans and Democrats, from a political and faith based leaders looking at lessons from the Irish peace process in contested times and they joined the dialogue group for a full day which was incredibly positive and constructive.

We also as a group hosted the Abraham Initiatives which is a leading NGO based in Israel of both Arabs and Jews where we spent a full day at the Skainos Centre in Belfast looking at the institutions that were put in place as part of our peace process to ensure equality, justice, and human rights for all.

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 some examples are - "Impossible Peace" a presentation by the leading former BBC security correspondent Brian Rowan. The emerging young leaders have been meeting with different political parties and putting a younger perspective to them in relation to politics. We also had a session on the Good Friday Agreement, as well as an evening during the Carter Centre's visit looking at politics and division from a younger perspective.

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, such as EcoPeace, Abraham Initiative 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 continuing our work in the Israeli-Palestinian region. 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.

Trustees' Annual Report (continued)

Activities and Achievements continued...

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 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.

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 2024 are set out on pages 8 and 9 of the financial statements.

The total income for the year ended 31 December 2024 amounted to £347,824 (2023: £341,897). The total expenditure was £281,646 (2023: £352,270)

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 (2023: £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 25/06/2025 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 2024 which are set out on pages 8 and 9.

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 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
- 4 That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be

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.



27/06/2025

Tony Clarke FCPA
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

Date:

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TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year to 31-Dec-24 TOTAL £	Year to 31-Dec-23 TOTAL £
Income from:					
Donations and Legacies	2	85,468	-	85,468	128,204
Charitable Activities	3	-	262,355	262,355	213,692
Total Income		85,468	262,355	347,824	341,896
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	5	88,827	192,819	281,646	352,270
Total expenditure:		88,827	192,819	281,646	352,270
Net income/(expenditure)		(3,359)	69,537	66,177	(10,373)
Transfers between funds		7,574	(7,574)	-	-
Net movement in funds		4,215	61,963	66,177	(10,373)
<u>Reconciliation of funds</u>					
Total funds brought forward		63,267	148,304	211,571	221,945
Total funds carried forward		67,482	210,267	277,748	211,572

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

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BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2024

	Note	<u>2024</u> £	<u>2023</u> £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Cash at bank		281,746	220,001
		<u>281,746</u>	<u>220,001</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(3,998)</u>	<u>(8,430)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>277,748</u>	<u>211,571</u>
Total Assets Less Current (Liabilities)		<u>277,748</u>	<u>211,571</u>
Net assets		<u><u>277,748</u></u>	<u><u>211,572</u></u>
Funds			
Restricted		210,267	148,304
Unrestricted		67,482	63,267
TOTAL FUNDS	10	<u><u>277,748</u></u>	<u><u>211,571</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees on 25/06/2025 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, impairments 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>	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
General Income	48,950	-	48,950	54,595
Grants	-	-	-	32,359
Reimbursements	36,518	-	36,518	21,644
Totals 2024	85,468	-	85,468	108,598
Totals 2023	26,219	-	26,219	

3 <u>Income from Charitable Activities</u>	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Department of Foreign Affairs	-	74,986	74,986	56,400
Esmee Fairbairn	-	25,031	25,031	50,000
Porticus	-	162,339	162,339	-
Totals 2024	-	262,355	262,355	106,400
Totals 2023	115,113	302,246	417,359	

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

4 <u>Staff Costs and Numbers</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross Wages and Salaries	111,150	105,849
Social Security Costs	12,553	12,553
Pension	9,076	9,076
	<u>132,779</u>	<u>127,478</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2024: None)

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

2024	2023
Number	Number
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

5 Expenditure

Charitable Activities	2024			2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	£	£
	£	£		
Accommodation	4,998	13,718	18,715	37,803
Administration, Conference & Evaluation	638	1,594	2,231	6,016
Emerging Young Leaders	1,000	700	1,700	9,807
Facilitation	350	4,625	4,975	3,000
General & Other Expenses	25,025	-	25,025	85,400
Hospitality/Catering	9,497	4,710	14,207	11,824
Insurance & Miscellaneous	1,906	-	1,906	1,133
Mentoring	-	7,706	7,706	15,650
Office & IT Expense	2,127	-	2,127	4,263
Payroll & Professional	-	132,779	132,779	127,478
Seminar	12,524	15,807	28,331	15,464
Telephone	1,081	-	1,081	1,981
Travel and Meetings	23,758	10,820	34,578	28,060
Accountancy	5,925	360	6,285	4,355
Bank Fees	-	-	-	35
Total 2024	<u>88,827</u>	<u>192,819</u>	<u>281,646</u>	<u>352,270</u>
Total 2023	<u>159,911</u>	<u>192,359</u>	<u>352,270</u>	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

6 Trustees remuneration & expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2023- £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2023- £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2023- £NIL).

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Accruals & Deferred Income	-	-
HMRC PAYE & Pension	3,998	8,430
Other Creditors	-	-
Total 2024	<u>3,998</u>	<u>8,430</u>

8 Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent Examiner's remuneration amounts to an Independent Examination fee of £360 (2023- £360)

9 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

10 Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Department of Foreign Affairs	37,675	74,986	(53,100)	(7,574)	51,987
Esmee Fairbairn	39,759	25,031	(55,690)	-	9,099
Porticus	70,870	162,339	(84,029)	-	149,181
Total restricted funds	148,304	262,355	(192,819)	(7,574)	210,267
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General	63,267	85,468	(88,827)	7,574	67,482
Total Unrestricted funds	63,267	85,468	(88,827)	7,574	67,482
Total of funds - current year	211,571	347,824	(281,646)	-	277,748

11 Statement of fund - prior year

	Balance at January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at December 2023
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