

Belfast Asian Women's Academy
Charity Number – 108281
Company Number – NI677159
Charity Information

Belfast Asian Women's Academy
Trustees' Report
for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

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Company Number: NI677159

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Charity Information

Trustees

Kalpana Chandran
Chandrakala Gowda (Resigned 01 December 2023)
Bandanva Singh
Ramya Krishna Gollapudi

Directors

Kalpana Chandran
Chandrakala Gowda (Resigned 01 December 2023)
Ramya Gollapudi
Bandanva Singh
Rafait O'Rourke (appointed on 09 July 2024)

Charity Number in Northern Ireland

108281

Company Number in Northern Ireland

NI677159

Registered Office and Principal Address

Suite 6g Executive Suite A
Weavers Court Business Park
Belfast
BT12 5GH

Independent Examiners

PGR Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants
Unit 2 Channel Wharf
21 Old Channel Road
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT3 9DE
Northern Ireland

Belfast Asian Women's Academy
Charity Number – 108281
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Trustee's Report

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 as amended by the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

In this report the trustees of Belfast Asian Women's Academy (or "the charity") present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 March 2024.

Mission, Objectives and Strategy

Belfast Asian Women's Academy is established for exclusively charitable purposes, namely:

1. The advancement of citizenship or community development.
2. Public benefit of ethnic minority women resident in the district area of Belfast and its environs.

This will be achieved through the sharing of knowledge and lived experience and networking for personal and professional development; fostering understanding between women from diverse communities, resident in Belfast; the active promotion of sport, social and recreational activities; the sharing of culture and experience through food, drama and dance; advocating and supporting ethnic minority women who are new-comers, resident in Belfast.

Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

Belfast Asian Women's Academy has a management committee of up to 4 members who meet at least 4 times a year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policies of the charity. At present the charity has 250 beneficiaries from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibility of the services rests with Kalpana Chandran (charity founder). Kalpana is responsible for ensuring the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met.

Governance

The Articles of Association was signed on 5 March 2021. The charity is constituted under this Articles of Association and is governed under this Articles

The charity has been registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland from 20 June 2022 under registration number 108281.

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Public Benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the Commission's Public benefit requirement statutory guidance and it meets the requirements through its charitable purposes as set out above.

This year, BAWA positively impacted over 300 beneficiaries, enhancing their quality of life through our diverse initiatives and outreach programmes.

Member Advocacy

We supported and advocated for 10 members, empowering them to navigate challenges and access the resources they need.

Inclusion with Compassion Event

Developed and delivered the "Inclusion with Compassion" event, graciously supported by the former Lord Mayor, Councillor Tina Black.

St Patrick's Day Parade

Actively participated in the St Patrick's Day Parade organised by Beat Carnival, showcasing our cultural vibrancy.

International Women's Day

Celebrated International Women's Day in collaboration with Women in Media Belfast, highlighting the contributions and achievements of women in our community.

Belfast City Marathon 2023

Members took part in the Belfast City Marathon 2023 relay, promoting fitness and teamwork among participants with 3 debut runners.

Lord Mayor's Day Performance

Engaged in a flashmob performance at Botanic Gardens to celebrate the Lord Mayor's Day, enchanting attendees with our artistic expression.

South Asian Heritage Month

Presented a captivating South Asian dance at the Northern Ireland Confederation Cup (NICC), organised by Ethnic Minority Sports Organisation Northern Ireland, to honour South Asian Heritage Month.

Ards Community Hospital Performance

Performed a South Asian dance for the patients and staff at Ards Community Hospital, fostering connections through cultural expression.

Saree Modelling

Participated in saree modelling for the Dunmurry Community Association, showcasing our cultural attire.

Badminton Tournament

Competed in a badminton tournament organised by Kerala Beats, promoting sports and fellowship among participants.

Active Swim for Beginners Project

Developed and delivered the "Active Swim for Beginners" project, with the support of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, encouraging community engagement in aquatic activities.

Noisy Nite Party

Successfully launched a self-funded activity, the "Noisy Nite Party" for women, providing a fun and inclusive environment.

Diversity Fiesta 2023

Organised and executed the "Diversity Fiesta 2023" in collaboration with BSCR Sandy Row, supported by Radius Housing and Clanmil Housing Association, celebrating our community's diversity.

Diwali Flashmob

Performed a flashmob in front of City Hall to mark Diwali, sharing the joy of this significant festival with the broader community.

Self-funded Christmas Party

Organised a self-funded Christmas party for ladies, creating a festive atmosphere and promoting social interactions.

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Food Donation

Contributed to the Belfast Homeless Services by donating 280 sandwiches and fruits, demonstrating our commitment to supporting those in need.

Funding Received

Successfully secured funding from The National Lottery Community Fund Northern Ireland for our Social and Recreational Hub project, ensuring continued support for our initiatives.

Conclusion

As we conclude this recap of our programmes and activities in 2023/2024, we remain optimistic and excited for the opportunities that 2024/2025 will bring. Thank you once again for your support; together, we can continue to inspire and empower our community.

Financial Review

At the end of the financial year the charity has assets of £536 (2023 - £1,061) and liabilities of £0 (2023 - £0). The net assets of the charity have decreased by £525. The charity has performed in line with the Trustees expectations.

Reserves Policy

Belfast Asian Women's Academy aims to maintain reserves in unrestricted funds at a level equivalent to approximately six months of core operating costs. These reserves are a contingency which aim to:

- Protect the future operation of Belfast Asian Women's Academy from the effects of any unforeseen variations in income and expenditure.
- Provide cash flow for grants that are paid in arrears.

The reserves policy and levels of reserves required are reviewed yearly as part of the annual budgetary process.

Trustees

The Trustees who served throughout the financial year were as follows:

Kalpana Chandran
Chandrakala Gowda (Resigned on 01 December 2023)
Ramya Gollapudi
Bandanva Singh

Approved by the Trustees on 23/12/24 and signed on its behalf by:



Kalpana Chandran
Trustee



Ramya Gollapudi
Trustee