

Company registered number: NI041273
Charity Registered number: NIC108453

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Tony Clarke
Clarke&Co. Accountants
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The company was incorporated on 03 August 2001 and they are awaiting registration from the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI041273

Registered Charity number

NIC108453

Registered office

6 Mount Charles

Belfast

BT71 NZ

CHAIRPERSON

Louise Kennedy

DIRECTORS

Louise Kennedy	Chair
Emma Osborne	Vice Chair
Anne McVicker	Treasurer
Jeanette Thornton	Secretary
Emma Johnston	European Women's Lobby representative
Louise Coyle	Member
Ruth Galwey	Member
Vivien Holding	Member (resigned 1st (Resigned on 10 June 2021)
Elizabeth Law	Member
Gaye Partridge	Member (joined 6 October 2021)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Tony Clarke

Clarke&Co. Accountants

53 Andersontown Road

Belfast

BT11 9AG

Women's Platform Limited

HMRC charitable status number NI01117

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

Women's Platform is a membership organisation working to promote the implementation of international human rights standards in Northern Ireland, and in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in line with commitments the UK has made to international human rights treaties. Established in 1988 as the Northern Ireland link to the European Women's Lobby, Women's Platform also represents women and girls in Northern Ireland at the European and international level, including at the UN. Women's Platform is in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN.

The work of Women's Platform locally focuses on building the capacity of members and the wider women's sector to utilise international human rights standards and mechanisms for women's rights in their own practice and work to promote gender equality in Northern Ireland. Women's Platform also shares evidence and good practice from international networks locally, and works with members to amplify the voice of women and girls in Northern Ireland internationally. In addition, Women's Platform contributes evidence to consultation processes and engages with policy and decision makers to highlight human rights commitments and evidence of good practice on realising gender equality.

Women's Platform exists to advance the equality and human rights and equality of women and girls in Northern Ireland, through a number of mechanisms including education of the public, promotion of human rights and public support for human rights, commenting on proposed legislation and policy, international advocacy, promoting domestic enforcement of human rights and research into human rights issues. Women's Platform also exists to promote equality, diversity and community development through means including providing a forum for women's organisations, providing strategic and operational support to women's organisations, development and delivery of action plans concerned with improving the lives of women in Northern Ireland and influencing policy and practice in the fields of gender equality, diversity and community development.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Key activities of the Organisation

The following were the key activities of the organisation in 2021-22:

CEDAW

The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a central international human rights treaty, which the UK ratified in 1986. Women's Platform coordinates the civil society response to CEDAW, through preparing shadow reports and promoting and monitoring implementation of the Committee's recommendations to the UK. In 2021, Women's Platform prepared and submitted an interim shadow report, following up on key recommendations in the 2019 [Concluding Observations](#) of the examination of the UK under CEDAW. This included engagement with members and partners to ensure a comprehensive evidence base, and contributed to highlighting a lack of attention to Northern Ireland in the UK government's interim CEDAW report, which was noted in the CEDAW Committee's response. Women's Platform also coordinated development of a four nations CEDAW shadow report, collaborating with sister organisations in England, Scotland and Wales. A number of written Parliamentary Questions were also submitted through Claire Hanna MP, seeking clarification of mechanisms for collaboration on CEDAW across the devolved administrations. This led to early discussions of a joint four nations initiative on CEDAW, which will be explored further in 2022-23.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is an intergovernmental body responsible for promoting the empowerment of women. Operating through annual conferences, its key role is to assist the United Nations and member states in setting policy direction; currently CSW also plays a key role in promoting the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals and integration of gender throughout the goals. Women's Platform, as an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, is eligible to participate in CSW and submit evidence.

CSW66 took place 14-25 March as a virtual conference and was a main focus of work for the last quarter of 2021-22. A virtual capacity building programme, consisting of four webinars, was delivered between December and March, and Women's Platform also supported a Northern Ireland delegation throughout the CSW conference. Women's Platform focused on following sessions at CSW over the two weeks and produced a daily update with highlights and an overview of events for the following day, which received positive feedback from delegates. The training programme also received positive feedback, although for 2022-23 focus will be put on further outreach and tailored capacity building across members and partners.

Women's Platform also engaged with the UK government negotiators at CSW66 and emphasised gender equality as a core concept to focus on. This included opportunities to engage with UK government Ministers and highlight issues that are shared priorities across the UK. Engagement with local officials was also undertaken to highlight learning from CSW.

A side event was organised on 16 March, focused on young women's perspectives on climate, gender justice and peace and security with young women speakers from Rwanda, Uganda, Colombia and Northern Ireland. This side event was organised in collaboration with Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, the UK women, peace and security network Gender Action in Peace and Security, and Women's Resource and Development Agency in Northern Ireland, and attracted the largest audience in recent organisational history with over 140 participants from across the world. Translation provided into French, Spanish, Arabic and American Sign Language significantly enhanced accessibility of the event, which received very positive feedback as a transformational and inspiring environment. Development of further links internationally will be a priority in 2022-23. Collaboration with Global Network of Women Peacebuilders has already led to opportunities to engage with global audiences on women, peace and security issues, including participating in an event leading to recommendations for UN Women.

Women's Platform also made submissions to the UN High Level Political Forum, which monitors progress on delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals in both March 2021 and March 2022. Further development of a working programme on the SDGs will take place in 2022-23.

At the UK level, Women's Platform also participated in the UK NGO CSW Alliance, a coalition of women's organisations engaged with CSW. The role of Women's Platform is to ensure a strong voice for women and girls in Northern Ireland, and focus of collaboration in 2022-23 was on highlighting the specific priorities of Northern Ireland, as well as the different arrangements resulting from devolution.

European Women's Lobby

The European Women's Lobby is the umbrella network for women's networks in Europe. Women's Platform is a core member of the UK Joint Committee on Women, which acts as the coordination of the UK membership of the European Women's Lobby, across the devolved administrations. Women's Platform also participates in the European Women's Lobby, including relevant sub networks, and was elected as the EWL Board member representing the UK in June 2021, for the period 2021-23. Work over the year focused on developing new working relationships in the context of the UK's exit from the European Union, and strengthening information sharing within the UK Joint Committee on Women. In 2021-22, Women's Platform also represented the the UK in a taskforce on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and contributed to a glossary on feminist language on these issues.

Women's Platform also participated in the UK Joint Committee on Women as a core member, focusing on development of relationships and exploring options for shared working across the UK. Improved information sharing from EWL to UK coordinations was also a key area of work.

Women, Peace and Security

Women's Platform provides the secretariat for the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group (APG) on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security. During the year, the APG continued to redevelop with regular meetings held under Paula Bradley MLA, who was re-elected as chair for 2021-22. The APG continued taking a strong interest in the impact of COVID-19 on women and gender equality, and supporting the women's sector in advocating for implementation of a Feminist Recovery Plan developed to ensure women's needs and priorities are considered in COVID-19 recovery and beyond. Members of the APG submitted Assembly Questions and sought clarification on issues from Departments, with a particular emphasis on seeking a strong and inclusively developed strategy on violence against women and girls, which was achieved following strong campaigning across the women's sector. The APG continued to develop its open and accessible approach to engaging civil society, and an approach platforming women's sector organisations and grassroots women was received positively. This will be developed further as the APG is re-established following Assembly elections in May 2022.

Women's Platform developed growing links with GAPS, the UK network on women, peace and security, and contributed speakers to events organised by GAPS. Collaboration also included contributing the domestic chapter to a shadow report on the UK National Action Plan on women, peace and security.

In 2020-21, Women's Platform secured a grant from the Irish Government's Reconciliation Fund for a project to mark the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. This project was designed to update evidence on how the principles of UNSCR 1325 are being implemented in Northern Ireland, and to provide women and girls with an opportunity to develop a vision of a peaceful Northern Ireland, with a view to informing future policy and decision making. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the engagement element of the project had to be postponed to autumn 2021, as the nature of the project does not lend itself to online delivery. Between November 2021 and March 2022 ten sessions were delivered, in collaboration with an external facilitator engaged to support this element, to five women's groups, with positive feedback and promising early findings. Preparatory work was undertaken with young women over the year, with a view to a large scale event in early 2022-23 to complete the project.

Following long term work to develop relationships with the Irish Government, which includes Northern Ireland in its National Action Plan on women, peace and security, Women's Platform in collaboration with Women's Resource and Development Agency, Women's Support Network and Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network successfully applied to the new Strategic Partnership element of the Reconciliation Fund for a three year capacity building and advocacy programme, which will build a platform for women to engage in peace-building and civic and political life, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Development of the detailed action plan was undertaken in Q4, with a view to initiating delivery in Q1 of 2022-23.

Local alliance building and advocacy

Women's Platform remains an active member of the NI Women's Policy Group and worked closely with the Women's Sector Lobbyist to develop advocacy for gender equality in policy and decision making, including development of the APG on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security. In 2020-21, this focused on development of the updated Feminist Recovery Plan and engagement with policy and decision makers to advocate for implementation of priorities set out in the plan. In addition, there was a strong focus on policy submissions to both the Northern Ireland Assembly and UK government, focusing on issues from a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland to new hate crime legislation and a strategy on violence against women and girls. Women's Platform also took part in a co design group for a Gender Equality Strategy, which will set policy direction for the next five years when completed.

Women's Platform is also an active member of NI Women's Budget group and participates in Reclaim the Agenda. Women's Platform has strengthened relationships with officials, particularly in relation to international mechanisms for women's rights and the impact of COVID-19 on gender; information sharing from international networks and participation in CSW have been critical to this. Information sharing is continuing to cement the organisation's role in supporting the sector with international evidence and learning. The project on strengthened evidence sharing funded through the adaptation grant secured through Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust helped set a clear direction for the future, which has informed strategic planning for the next three years and contributed to the successful new core grant application.

Identity review and reform

Through the adaptation grant secured through Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Women's Platform was able to invest in a communications strategy, which was completed and will inform core priority action in 2022-23. This work identified a need for further identity review, which included engagement with existing members and led to a decision to rebrand the former Northern Ireland Women's European Platform as Women's Platform. With the support of a grant from The National Lottery Fund, a new visual identity was developed and communications materials including a new website created to highlight the organisation's core aim and focus on becoming inclusive and accessible to all women and girls in Northern Ireland. A new strategic plan was also developed to underpin the new identity and the new core grant application, and will drive organisational development over the period 2022-25. The name change was legally confirmed at the AGM in October 2021 and the legal identity changeover completed in December 2021. A relaunch took place in February 2022 and will be followed by extensive member and partner engagement to increase membership and ensure an accessible approach in 2022-23 and beyond.

Extraordinary activity: Action and adaptation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic was an extraordinary global event that took hold from January 2020 and affected activity throughout 2021-22.

Women's Platform moved to remote working in March 2020 and was able to continue delivery of the strategic and operational plan with relatively limited restrictions. Arrangements were put in place to meet organisational policies and procedures, in particular regarding information and data security. Meetings continued in an online format and Women's Platform also introduced new services, including a newsletter and a webinar series focusing on sharing evidence and learning from international networks, which have enabled new stakeholders to be reached, including audiences beyond Northern Ireland. Women's Platform has therefore been able to continue efficient delivery of the strategic and operational plan, and has also been able to capitalise on new opportunities, strengthening the organisation's position for the future.

During the COVID-19 crisis, demand for the organisation's services in collating and sharing information from national and international networks increased from members as well as policy makers; this informed the new strategic plan and identity review, and a member led approach is now embedded within the organisation's structures. Implementation of the strategic plan will be informed by ongoing member engagement, and will also be informed by close monitoring of policy and legislative developments both in Northern Ireland and beyond.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to guidance produced by the Charity Commission regarding Public Benefit.

Directors

The following constituted the directors of Women's Platform as of 31 March 2022:

Louise Kennedy	Chair
Emma Osborne	Vice Chair
Anne McVicker	Treasurer
Jeanette Thornton	Secretary
Emma Johnston	European Women's Lobby representative
Louise Coyle	Member
Ruth Galwey	Member
Vivien Holding	Member (resigned 10 June 2021)
Elizabeth Law	Member
Gaye Partridge	Member (joined 6 October 2021)

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE FINANCIAL REVIEW**Financial Position**

The detailed financial results for the year ended 31 March 2022 are shown on the financial statements, which accompany this report. During the year, Women's Platform successfully delivered on objectives set within a grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, which provides for core costs for the period 2018-21. Women's Platform also completed two projects supported by an additional adaptation grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, designed to support communications and evidence gathering and analysis. Following impactful delivery, Women's Platform also successfully applied for a new core grant for the period 2022-25, which includes a modest increase in funding to enable an upgrade of the staff post from a part time Project Coordinator post to a full time Director post. This secures the organisation financially until 2025.

In addition, Women's Platform initiated delivery of a project on women, peace and security funded by the Reconciliation Fund managed by the Republic of Ireland Department of Foreign Affairs, which focuses on engaging with women and girls to develop a vision of a peaceful future for Northern Ireland for women and girls. Delivery of the project was delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions, and an extension has been agreed with the funder.

In November 2020, Women's Platform secured a grant from The National Lottery Fund to support a rebranding exercise designed to update the organisation's identity and ensure an organisational image that highlights the organisation's ongoing relevance in the current

environment. This project was completed in February 2022 and includes a new organisational identity, supported by a new visual identity and communications materials including a new website. The new identity will assist in creating a confident organisation that can capitalise on funding opportunities identified.

Successful delivery of all of these initiatives is contributing to the organisation's long term sustainability. In February 2022, Women's Platform secured a three year grant under the new Strategic Partnership established under the Irish Government's Reconciliation Fund managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs. This grant is for a consortium involving Women's Resource and Development Agency, Women's Support Network and Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network, and will fund a three year capacity building and advocacy programme which will build a platform for women to engage in peace-building and civic and political life, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Women's Platform will be responsible for financial management and oversight of this project, which will begin in early 2022-23.

Reserves Policy

Women's Platform maintains a prudent level of reserves to enable the organisation to deliver the strategic plan. The objective is that the organisation would be able to carry on its work, even if faced with a combination of difficult circumstances, and have the time to adjust its strategy to meet these changing circumstances. The Committee will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on an annual basis and is actively working to identify funding opportunities that will secure a level of reserves identified as appropriate, while strengthening the organisation's financial resilience as well as its ability to capitalise on opportunities that may arise beyond the core strategic plan.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal Risks & Uncertainties

Risk Policy and Internal Control Framework

Women's Platform has put in place a risk management process, which seeks to ensure that the organisation is able to operate effectively in all circumstances. The Committee has primary responsibility for risk management and is undertaking annual risk review with a view to strengthening organisational resilience and ability to effectively monitor, prepare for and react to the main strategic, business and operational risks facing the organisation.

As part of the rebranding and new strategic plan, Women's Platform has reviewed and updated a risk review, informed by learning from the Covid-19 crisis, and put in place measures to safeguard the organisation. With a core grant in place for 2022-25, the organisation is financially stable and the crisis did not result in financial risk to the organisation.

Financial Stability

The Trustees deem the organisation to be financially stable and a going concern in the current circumstance, with the three year core cost grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust being delivered successfully and a new core grant in place for 2022-25. The additional Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership grant, while shared with consortium members who will carry out the majority of concrete work, confirms the role of the organisation within the women's sector and wider civil society in Northern Ireland, and provides a good basis for further developing relationships with the Irish government as a major current funder of activities relevant to the women's sector, as well as identifying additional revenue funding opportunities.

The Committee has for several years involved a finance sub group to oversee long term financial planning, scrutinise financial management of the organisation and review budgets on an ongoing basis. The sub group was strengthened to take on a role in scrutinising governance in 2021-22. The finance and governance sub group meets at least quarterly, running in tandem with Committee meetings to scrutinise finances and governance issues and provide recommendations regarding financial planning and governance to the Committee. The organisation will continue working to strengthen financial sustainability by actively seeking long term funding opportunities that are aligned with Women's Platform priorities and contribute to the delivery of the organisation's strategic aims and objectives. This forms part of long term strategic planning to secure long term sustainability.

Governance and Management

Women's Platform has governance structures and procedures in place to ensure appropriate decision making and implementation. The Committee is the governing body of the organisation and develops strategic plans on a three yearly basis, with annual review alongside ongoing monitoring of operational plans. The focus of review is to ensure the organisation is able to operate effectively in all circumstances, identify challenges at an early stage and develop a proactive as well as responsive approach to governance. Governance systems and procedures are reviewed regularly to ensure effective scrutiny as well as management of the organisation and compliance with legislation and regulations.

During the year, implementation of a governance review was initiated, including redevelopment of a staff handbook and comprehensive induction pack for Trustees. The review also identified a need to strengthen and clarify membership services, and this is a priority for 2022-23 as part of rolling out the new identity and operational plan.

Operational

The personal security of staff and volunteers, as well as the safety of beneficiaries is of the highest priority for Women's Platform. The Organisation has comprehensive policies on areas including Data Protection, Privacy and Health and Safety to ensure that this risk is appropriately managed and procedures are in place to monitor and ensure compliance. Clear line management arrangements and robust HR policies are also in place to safeguard staff and volunteers, as well as the organisation as a whole. Policies and procedures are

reviewed regularly by the finance and governance sub group of the Committee, assisted by the Project Coordinator, and updated in line with legislation and guidance. All of these policies are being reviewed as part of the staff handbook and Trustee induction project.

Information Security and Continuity

Women's Platform takes data protection, privacy and data security seriously and has put in place policies and procedures designed to ensure a secure environment in relation to data collation, processing and storage. It is dependent on IT and communication systems for processing and storing data in order to operate effectively. To prevent disruption to operations due to damage to systems or unauthorised access to data Women's Platform has developed robust information and data security measures, which have been reviewed within the financial year in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Development of a new website has contributed to creating a strong data security and communications position, and further review of data security and effective data management will be a priority in 2022-23 Women's Platform has reviewed current measures in place for remote working and is satisfied that arrangements are of a sufficient standard and information is secure for the likely long term continuation of at least part time remote working.

FINANCIAL REVIEW**Compliance and Regulation**

Women's Platform takes compliance with legislation and regulation very seriously and appreciates the significant damage to the organisation's reputation that could be caused due to non-compliance with legislation, regulations or codes of best practice. Women's Platform implements well-established policies and procedures and adheres to the sector's recommended codes of practice (such as Statement of Recommended Practice - SORP) to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory and legal standards.

Environmental and External Risks

Women's Platform monitors the external environment on an ongoing basis in order to anticipate political, social or economic risks, and undertakes regular review of plans in light of the changing context to ensure that plans can take account of the external environment in a way that minimises any negative impact on organisational activities or the reputation of the Organisation. Strategic review was undertaken during the year in light of both Covid-19 recovery and the changing political context, including development of post Brexit arrangements; focus throughout the year was on adapting the operational plan to meet needs identified in order to ensure the relevance of the organisation within the women's sector, among members, and as a stakeholder in policy and decision making processes. A horizon scanning exercise was undertaken as part of the strategic plan development and informed the strategic plan 2022-25 as well as operational planning for 2022-23.

Engagement with members and partners, including the identity review, has underlined that Women's Platform and its expertise, international experience and services are

required over the longer term, and core activities during the year have demonstrated increased demand for services, underlining the relevance of the organisation in the current environment. The vital role of the organisation in sharing international level evidence and information with the wider women's sector has continued to be highlighted during an intensive period of policy consultation by the Northern Ireland Executive. Financial and strategic planning will remain focused on ensuring the long term sustainability of the organisation and will involve active identification of ways to ensure sustainability in a changing environment.

FUTURE PLANS

Planning for 2022-23 formed a key activity in late 2021-22 and plans include the following:

CEDAW

- Preparing for a new cycle of CEDAW monitoring
- Developing training portfolio building capacity on CEDAW and other human rights instruments for gender equality among members
- Rolling out training, with flexible approaches developed through engagement with members and partners
- Building relationships with policy and decision makers and strengthening understanding of international obligations within CEDAW
- Engaging with policy and decision makers to promote understanding of CEDAW and wider international human rights standards
- Engaging with sister organisations to develop UK wide approach to promote implementation

CSW

- Developing capacity on CSW to provide effective platforms for women in Northern Ireland at CSW67
- Submitting a statement to CSW66
- Identifying opportunities for strengthened engagement with CSW by both civil society and officials in Northern Ireland
- Engaging with policy and decision makers at local and national level to highlight CSW and advocating for consistent foreign and domestic policy
- Developing an action plan linking the Sustainable Development Goals and other international mechanisms including CEDAW #
- Participation in CSW67
- Contribution to the UK CSW NGO Alliance

Women, Peace and Security

- Continuing providing the secretariat to the Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security

- Strengthening the All Party Group as a platform for grassroots women to engage with policy and decision making
- Completing project to highlight the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution
- Launching the Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership project Women's Spaces
- Providing effective administration and monitoring of Women's Spaces, including acting as liaison to Reconciliation Fund
- Developing capacity building resources on UNSCR 1325 for members, stakeholders and policy makers
- Exploring new platforms focused on women, peace and security
- Participating in relevant national level networks, including the Northern Ireland Consultative Group on Ireland's third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and the UK wide Gender Action for Peace and Security network (GAPS)

Local, national and international collaboration

- Participating in European Women's Lobby, including acting as EWL Board member for the UK
- Participating in EWL General Assembly
- Participating in the UK Joint Committee on Women as a core member of this coordination of the UK membership of the European Women's Lobby
- Contributing to development of shared working across the UK
- Strengthening collaboration at European level with a view to developing new relationships in a post Brexit setting
- Strengthening relationships with sister organisations in Ireland
- Continuing participation in local working groups and networks relevant to gender equality and human rights
- Strengthening engagement in international networks relevant to gender equality

Organisational development

- Extensive engagement with members and potential members to increase membership
- Identifying appropriate approaches to embed diversity and intersectional practice in organisational structures
- Implementing communication strategy
- Developing strengthened and more accessible communications
- Strengthening evidence sharing role and capacity
- Continuing Trustee development as part of ongoing governance development
- Reviewing strategic plan and operational plans for the period 2022-25
- Monitoring and identifying additional funding opportunities in line with funding strategy

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**Governing Document**

The charity is controlled by Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The Articles of Association were updated in 2018 and are reviewed annually to ensure ongoing relevance and compliance of activities with the Articles.

Governance of the Organisation

The Committee of Women's Platform is the governing body of the organisation and meets approximately six weekly, with a view to moving to bimonthly meetings in 2022-23. It is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. Delivery of the strategic plan and day to day management of operational activities is carried out by the Project Coordinator, under supervision of and accountable to the Committee. The Project Coordinator prepares reports in advance of each Committee meeting and performance is managed through monthly supervision meetings.

Committee members are appointed according to the specific skills required by the Organisation to fulfil its responsibilities as outlined in its Strategic Plan and are ratified at the AGM. Committee members are nominated by organisations who are full members of Women's Platform and are elected at the Annual General Meeting for a two year period. Office bearers are elected by the Committee from within its number for a two year period, with clear limits to mandates set in the Articles of Association. In addition, the Committee is entitled to co-opt a limited number of Committee members. Nine members of the Committee were re-elected in 2020, and will serve over the years 2021-22 and 2022-23. Committee development and training needs are being monitored on an ongoing basis and will be a priority in 2022-23. The option to co-opt up to five additional Committee members is available.

Full membership is open to organisations who work primarily or exclusively with women, and full members are entitled to nominate Committee members and vote at Women's Platform general meetings. In addition, Women's Platform offers associate membership to organisations who work with women as one client group, and to any interested woman as an individual member. Associate and individual members are entitled to attend and speak at general meetings but are not entitled to vote.

Membership of Women's Platform is restricted to women in line with the objects of Women's Platform, which are focused on advancing equality and human rights for women and girls, and promoting equality, diversity and community development.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI041273 (Northern Ireland)

Recognised by HMRC as a charity for tax purposes – NI01117

Registered Office

6 Mount Charles
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT7 1NZ

Trustees

Louise Kennedy (Chair)
Emma Osborne (Vice Chair)
Anne McVicker (Treasurer)
Jeanette Thornton (Secretary)
Emma Johnston (EWL member)

Louise Coyle
Ruth Galwey
Vivien Holding (resigned 10 June
2021)
Elizabeth Law
Gaye Partridge (joined 6 October
2021)

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the independent examiner undertaking the charitable company's examination is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiner undertaking the charitable company's examination is aware of that information.

SCRUTINY OF ACCOUNTS

As the organisation's current turnover is under £250,000, current charity legislation allows for independent examination to scrutinise accounts. The decision to undertake independent examination of accounts in 2019-20 was ratified at the AGM 2018 and further confirmed at the AGM 2019.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) continued...

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

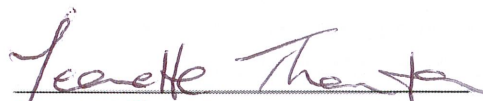
The Trustees (who are also directors of Northern Ireland Womens European Platform for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standard (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period. 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 Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transaction and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and the enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2016. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on ...20.10.2022... and signed on behalf by:



Jeanette Thornton
Secretary

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

I report on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 19 and 20.

This report is made solely to the company's Trustees, 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 company'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 company and the company's Trustees as a body, for my work of this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the company's Trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purpose of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the company is not subject to audit under company law, 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 reached.

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD
(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

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.



Tony Clarke
Clarke&Co. Accountants
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

25/11/22

Date:

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

(Private company limited by guarantee without share capital)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year to 31-Mar-22 TOTAL £	Year to 31-Mar-21 TOTAL £
Income from:					
Donations and Legacies:					
Joseph Rowntree	2	-	40,000	40,000	60,460
Interest		90	-	90	75
Charitable Activities	3	-	-	-	-
Total Income		90	40,000	40,090	60,536
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	6	-	55,848	55,848	41,757
Total Expenditure:		-	55,848	55,848	41,757
Net income/(Expenditure)		90	(15,848)	(15,757)	18,779
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		90	(15,848)	(15,757)	18,779
<u>Reconciliation of Funds</u>					
Total funds brought forward	12	9,813	28,178	37,991	19,213
Total Funds carried forward	11	9,904	12,331	22,234	37,991

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 statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on page 21 to 26 form an integral part of these accounts

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2022

	Note	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	-	-
Cash at bank		<u>22,474</u>	<u>38,171</u>
		22,474	38,171
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(240)</u>	<u>(180)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>22,234</u>	<u>37,991</u>
Net assets		<u><u>22,234</u></u>	<u><u>37,991</u></u>
Funds			
Restricted		12,331	28,178
Unrestricted		9,904	9,813
TOTAL FUNDS	11	<u><u>22,234</u></u>	<u><u>37,991</u></u>


The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board directors on 20.10.2022 and were signed on their behalf by:


Jeanette Thornton
 Secretary

The notes on page 21 to 26 form an integral part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Womens Platform Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is: 6 Mount Charles, Belfast, BT71 NZ

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance 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 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...**1.4 Incoming resources (continued)**

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts, VAT and other sales related taxes.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measure reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category.

The charity is below the charity audit threshold and therefore is exempt from reporting expenditure on an activity basis. The charity has opted to report by the nature of expenditure rather than on an activity basis.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and Fittings	15% on cost
Computers	20% on cost

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...**1.9 Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1.10 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.11 Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...****2 Income from Donations and Legacies**

	2022		2021	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Joseph Rowntree	-	40,000	40,000	42,923
Department of Foreign Affairs	-	-	-	7,537
The National Lottery fund	-	-	-	10,000
Interest	90	-	90	75
	90	40,000	40,090	60,536
Totals 2021	75	60,460	60,536	

3 Income from Charitable Activities

	2022		2021	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
General	-	-	-	-
Totals 2022	-	-	-	-
Totals 2021	-	-	-	-

4 Staff Costs and Numbers

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross Wages and Salaries	28,439	27,595
	28,439	27,595

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2021: Nil)

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

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
	1	1

5 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

WOMEN'S PLATFORM LTD
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TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

6 Expenditure

Charitable Activities			2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted		
	Funds	Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Salary Costs	-	28,439	28,439	27,595
Staff travel	-	98	98	-
Telecoms	-	1,322	1,322	1,355
Rent	-	3,300	3,300	3,300
Insurance	-	896	896	782
Bank Fees	-	80	80	49
Accountancy	-	1,356	1,356	1,260
Stationery	-	-	-	100
Hospitality / Governance	-	28	28	866
IT & Comms Equipment	-	77	77	-
Project Costs	-	12,483	12,483	5,589
New Identity	-	7,769	7,769	-
Website/ PCs	-	-	-	564
EWL M/Ship	-	-	-	298
Total 2022	-	55,848	55,848	41,757
Total 2021	-	41,757	41,757	

7 Trustees remuneration & expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2021 - £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2021 - £NIL).

During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2021 - £NIL).

8 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
	-	-

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent Examiner's remuneration amounts to an Independent Examination fee of £240 (2021 - £180)

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TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS CONTINUED...

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£
Accruals & Deferred Income	-	-
Other Creditors	240	180
	<u>240</u>	<u>180</u>

11 Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Joseph Rowntree	12,840	40,000	(45,002)	-	7,838
Department of Foreign Affairs	7,522	-	(3,016)	-	4,506
The National Lottery fund	7,816	-	(7,769)	-	47
Total restricted funds	28,178	40,000	(55,788)	-	12,391
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Unrestricted funds	9,813	90	-	-	9,903
Total Unrestricted funds	9,813	90	-	-	9,903
Total of funds - current year	37,991	40,090	(55,788)	-	22,294

12 Statement of fund - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer in/out	Balance at 31 March 2022
Total unrestricted funds	9,737	75	-	-	9,813
Total restricted funds	9,475	60,460	(41,757)	-	28,178
Total of funds - prior year	19,212	60,536	(41,757)	-	37,991