

HELEN BAMBER FOUNDATION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

Trustees Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

FOUNDER

Helen Bamber OBE (1925 — 2014)

HELEN BAMBER FOUNDATION

CHARITY NUMBER 1149652

PRESIDENT

Emma Thompson DBE

HELEN BAMBER FOUNDATION

COMPANY NUMBER 08186281

TRUSTEES OF HELEN BAMBER FOUNDATION

Adam Epstein – *Chair of HBF*

Dan Colton (resigned in May 2024)

Elizabeth Mottershaw

John Scampion

Ian Watt

Nancy McCartney

Nina Kowalska

Olivia Curno

Patricia Chale (resigned in November 2024)

Samantha Peter

ASYLUM AID

CHARITY NUMBER 328729

ASYLUM AID

COMPANY NUMBER 02513874

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Sir Nicolas Bratza

Kat Lorenz

Yehia Nasr

Constantine Partasides

John Scampion – Treasurer

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MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVES 2024

Alison Pickup – *Executive Director of Asylum Aid*

Gareth Holmes – *Executive Director of Fundraising and Communications of HBF Group*

Katy Robjant – *Executive Director of Clinical and Counter-Trafficking of HBF (resigned October 2024)*

Kerry Smith – *Chief Executive Officer of HBF Group*

Thomas Smith – *Director of Finance and Governance of HBF Group*

2024 WAS A YEAR OF TRANSFORMATIONS AND MONUMENTAL GROWTH

CHANGING LIVES	
We provided life-saving support to 1,834 survivors across the HBF Group.	246 clients received legal representation from Asylum Aid
89% of clients recorded a clinically significant improvement in their PTSD symptoms, and 100% reported a clinically significant improvement in their depression symptoms	184 clients were given medical advice by our team of doctors
188 clients were supported by our counter-trafficking team, ensuring they were not re-exploited	269 clients built social connections and learnt vital skills through English classes, music groups, and employment workshops
81% of housing problems and threats of homelessness faced by clients were resolved within three months	91% of clients for whom we provided a medical legal report were granted a form of leave to remain in the UK
BUILDING PIVOTAL PARTNERSHIPS	CREATING BETTER SYSTEMS
We trained thousands of professionals to deliver trauma-informed support to survivors	We ensured that the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024 is repealed
We completed the fifth year of our partnership with Young Roots, delivering therapeutic support to their young refugee clients	In response to our advocacy, the government announced that it would stop using hotels, the Bibby Stockholm and Napier barracks to accommodate people seeking asylum, and scrapped plans to open new accommodation in RAF Scampton
We delivered a route out of homelessness for survivors through our partnership with the Refugee and Migrant Forum of Essex and London (RAMFEL)	We ensured that the government introduces a new pilot under which newly granted refugees now have double the time to find housing and are less likely to become homeless – protecting them from further abuse and exploitation

INTRODUCTION TO THE HELEN BAMBER FOUNDATION GROUP

Who we are

The Helen Bamber Foundation (HBF) and Asylum Aid have come together as the Helen Bamber Foundation Group to provide a significant lifeline for survivors who include at-risk refugees and asylum seekers at a critical time of need. In an increasingly complex global climate marked by ongoing conflicts and crises, this partnership amplifies our impact, enhancing our ability to provide evidence-based support to the most marginalised survivors. By doing so, we offer both hope and practical assistance to those who need it most. At the heart of our group structure is a shared mission: to ensure that those facing extreme vulnerability are safe, can recover, and have a future filled with dignity and hope.

The Helen Bamber Foundation provides direct support through our Model of Integrated Care (MoIC) which combines therapeutic, medical, casework and legal support, helping clients to recover from trauma. Asylum Aid focuses on serving and empowering asylum seekers with complex cases, particularly vulnerable children or stateless people, a legal status that leaves people invisible—unable to work, marry, study, or even open a bank account. Without documents or rights, they face a heightened risk of exploitation. Asylum Aid hosts The Migrants' Law Project, a specialist legal project that helps young people to secure family reunion for younger siblings, some who are toddlers, fleeing violence.

Our unique breadth of work gives us invaluable insights into asylum seekers' experiences, enabling us to better support the NHS, partner organisations, and frontline services. By sharing our expertise, we expand our reach, increase efficiency, and direct more resources to where they are needed most. This allows us to improve support, speed up recovery for survivors, and raise care standards across the sector through training for peer organisations and statutory services.

Understanding that an inclusive, supportive and just environment is fundamental for survivors to recover, we bring about positive systemic changes through policy advocacy and strategic legal work. Our advocacy work – whether policy recommendations, generating knowledge through research, or working closely with the media – is rooted firmly in the lived experiences of survivors, including our clients, and bearing witness to the adversities they have faced.

Together we are innovative, ambitious and compassionate.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

2024 has been a year of incredible growth and transformation for the HBF Group. With your generous support, we opened the Trauma Centre to our staff and 1,834 survivors, delivered life-saving care and rehabilitation in our bespoke, sector-leading clinical and community facilities, and began to expand our services to become a beacon of hope and best practice across the refugee, anti-trafficking and healthcare sectors. We are now poised to grow the scope and scale of our reach by 50%.

We are incredibly grateful to the community that has come together to make the Trauma Centre a reality – from the architects and designers who provided building designs free of charge, to the suppliers offering construction and refurbishment pro bono, to our generous funders and sponsors. Our President Emma Thompson has provided unwavering support throughout the journey. We would like to thank you all for your incredible support for the Centre, where thousands will gain the strength to fly for decades to come.

The Trauma Centre has enabled us to build capacity and confidence within the asylum and immigration sector to take on more complex cases, in response to the tremendous demand for services that we are witnessing across the UK. We have trained more than 1000 professionals in trauma-informed ways of working, ensuring that survivors beyond the ones we serve directly can receive the help they need.

Our partnerships continue to play a key role in the future, increasing our impact and reaching more survivors. In 2024 we have delivered mental health support to 142 children and young people through our partnership with Young Roots, and we have launched new partnerships with the British Red Cross and Hummingbird, embedding therapists within their services in Leicester, Derby and Brighton, expanding our national reach. Asylum Aid trained and developed new advisers with programmes such as the Justice First Fellowship – a grant that helped us recruit and train an aspiring solicitor. Our unique training programme for the training and supervision of legal advisers, funded through the Justice Together Initiative, meant that Immigration Advice Authority (IAA) Level 2 Advisers who work in underserved regions, including West Yorkshire, Devon, Cornwall, Manchester and Wales, could access best practice training that improves the impact they deliver for clients. As a Group, we are having greater external impact in the sector and we are continuing to collaborate with others to challenge the hostile system and policies.

In 2025, we were pleased to announce Alison Pickup as our new Chief Executive Officer. Alison, who was the Executive Director of Asylum Aid took over from Kerry Smith, who led the Group since 2018. During her four years at the helm of Asylum Aid, Alison has significantly grown its impact and led several legal challenges bringing about positive changes to the immigration and asylum systems. We are all incredibly grateful to Kerry for her leadership and look forward to continuing our growth with Alison as our new CEO.

Our achievements of 2024 are thanks to the determination and hard work of our dedicated team and volunteers. Thanks to their commitment to improving the lives of survivors, we have had outstanding impact, which we are proud to share in this report.

THE UK'S FIRST MAJOR TRAUMA CENTRE – A BEACON OF HOPE FOR SURVIVORS

Located in the heart of London, the HBF Group's Trauma Centre is a calm, welcoming and safe space for hundreds of survivors of trafficking and torture to begin their journey towards recovery. Comprising nearly 11,000 sq. ft across two floors, it has 13 large, private and soundproofed therapy and legal consultation rooms, and four doctors' rooms where survivors who are suffering from illness and injuries can be examined and supported. Our clients' insights have been invaluable in designing an environment that is truly inclusive.

Clients visiting the Trauma Centre for the first time shared their appreciation of the space. One person said: *"I feel very humbled that so much was invested to give us a place that feels like home."* Clients have expressed how the decor brings a sense of calm, describing it as *"beautiful"*, *"modern"*, and *"feels like nature"*. These reflections underscore how the Centre promotes a comforting, dignified and welcoming environment for healing and recovery.



WE ARE DRIVEN BY LIVED EXPERIENCE VOICES

Helen Bamber Foundation's services and advocacy are driven by the experiences of the many survivors with whom we work. In 2024, our clients continued to play a fundamental role in shaping our services, best practices and advocacy.

Survivors shaped our services in pivotal ways in 2024, their invaluable lived experience and expertise helped inform and improve our support. Survivors in our Client Voices Forum conducted a thorough review of all our services, providing insights and suggestions to our senior leadership team, shaping the future of our service and our new three-year strategy. Our two lived-experience Board Observers – recruited to provide advice and expertise to HBF's Board of Trustees – provided invaluable insight and ensured that the perspectives of survivors are shaping HBF's decision-making at every level of the organisation.

Our Trauma Centre had client voices at the heart of its design. Lighting, space, and sound were all significantly improved through consultation with survivors. It was decided that each of the consultation and clinical rooms should be named after migratory birds, in honour of survivors' journeys and in celebration of the powerful symbol of freedom birds represent.

A group of Helen Bamber Foundation clients, Ambassadors for Change, continued their impactful campaign for safe housing. The group produced an inspiring [advocacy video](#), illustrating the detrimental impact of unsafe asylum accommodation on the mental health and well-being of vulnerable refugees in the UK, which has led to widespread calls for secure housing for everyone seeking protection in the UK.



Still from the Ambassadors For Change advocacy video, showing the positive impact of reaching safety and finding community.

PART I: WE TRANSFORMED LIVES

HBF Group is proud to provide expert services to some of the most vulnerable people seeking protection in the UK. Under Helen Bamber Foundation, we deliver a pioneering Model of Integrated Care (MoIC), in which we provide six specialist services:



The MoIC's goal is to build lasting and sustained recovery for all our clients. We know that rehabilitation from extreme human cruelty is a complex, non-linear journey, so we stand with our clients for as long as it takes. In a world of rising conflict, every year we get many more referrals than we can accept due to limited capacity. To ensure we support those at most need, we prioritise referrals of survivors at the sharpest edge of marginalisation.

In 2024, we were forced to turn away 80% of the referrals we received, survivors with nowhere else to turn. In response to this unprecedented surge in demand, the Trauma Centre will allow us to grow our services, so more survivors are protected from re-trafficking and exploitation.

We measure the success and effectiveness of HBF's MoIC services, to ensure our clients receive the best possible care, using the Clinical Outcomes in Routine Evaluation (CORE) tool plus a range of clinical tools and surveys. In 2024, despite the ongoing hostile environment and policies impacting the lives of survivors, **89% recorded a clinically significant improvement in their PTSD symptoms, and 100% reported a clinically significant improvement in their depression symptoms.**

Asylum Aid provides legal representation and advice to protect people seeking safety in the UK, particularly at-risk children and stateless people, from further persecution and harm. In 2024, Asylum Aid took on 93 new clients – each with a complex case, requiring the highest quality of legal support. **Thanks to the tireless work of our team, 50 clients gained protection and over 100 children and young people received vital legal representation.** Through The Migrants' Law Project, we help young people fleeing violence reunite with their families through safe and legal routes. This year we reunited 6 families who would otherwise be forced to take risky migration routes, including the Sahara, Mediterranean and Channel routes. A full account of Asylum Aid's work is in its annual report. For a summary of their direct provision, see page 18 of this report.

WE DELIVERED LIFE-SAVING THERAPEUTIC CARE



Faiz, a client from Iran, cautiously started stabilisation therapy with our team. He experienced child bereavement during his migration journey to the UK and lived with palpable grief. He struggled with intense nightmares, dissociation, panic attacks and depression. Faiz is neurodivergent, which amplified his sensitivity to sensory stimuli and led to marked isolation. Therapy sessions had to be adapted (dimming lights, booking appointments for quiet periods of the day, using visual cues) and carefully paced.

Our expert team spent extensive time exploring his perception of neurodivergence and the cultural attitudes attached to it. He called himself 'weak' or 'broken'. Initially, Faiz was cautious of therapy and feared self-disclosure (to the extent that he declined to work with an interpreter). Over approximately 10 sessions, he was able to understand his trauma symptoms, use adapted grounding strategies to cope, shift towards a less negative position about living with neurodiversity, and make adaptations to alleviate sensory stressors in the family home. He also feels safer in the therapy room now. *"I know talking helps me," he says. "I take it out of my mind."*

Photos and names in the case studies included in this report have been changed to protect clients' privacy.

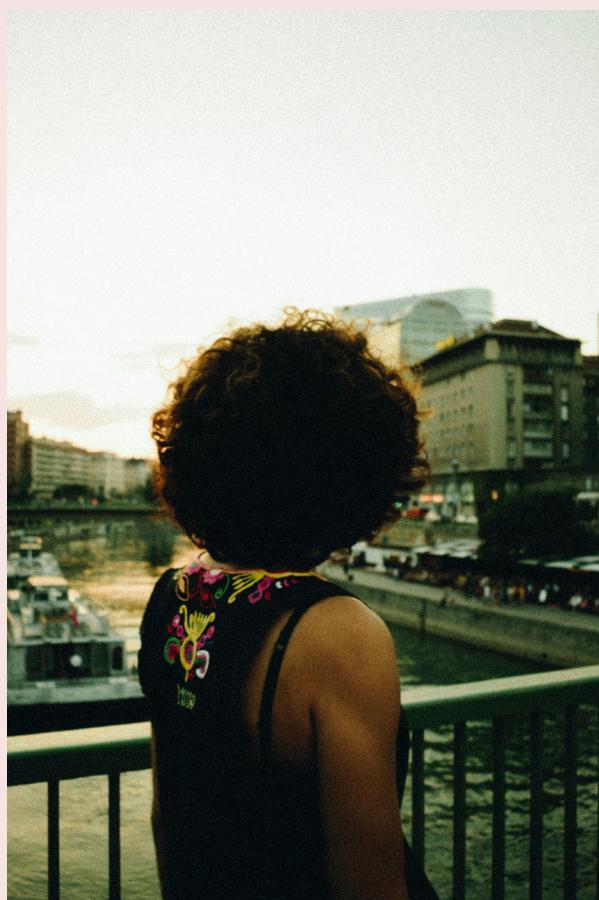
Faiz is among the 425 clients supported by the therapy team in 2024. The fluctuating socio-political climate caused deep distress for our clients, driving a sharp rise in safeguarding needs. Our therapists responded by dedicating more time and care to survivors, providing life-saving support through growing uncertainty and fear. Our team provided medical evidence and advocated with the NHS for better services that meet a client's particular and changing needs.

- In 2024, among MoIC clients, **67** clients started stabilisation therapy, focusing on symptom management, such as flashbacks, intrusive thoughts, and panic attacks
- **83** clients started Trauma-Focused therapy, including trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Narrative Exposure Therapy

WE HELPED SURVIVORS NAVIGATE A COMPLEX ASYLUM SYSTEM

Lucy, a survivor of trafficking, was lured to the UK from Nigeria more than a decade ago as a domestic worker. She was horrifically abused and exploited by her former employers and still fears they will find her if she returns to Nigeria. After a police tip off provided Lucy with an opportunity to escape, she claimed asylum, but her legal case has been complex, with input from many different lawyers on different matters. She relived her trauma multiple times as she has repeatedly had to disclose her past as part of her ongoing immigration and asylum case. Lucy's trauma symptoms intensified as she endured intrusive thoughts, painful flashbacks and paralysing fear.

Lucy was referred to us in 2022. Our legal protection, counter-trafficking and therapeutic teams have since collaborated to provide her with holistic support. We worked with her lawyers to support her in submitting applications for asylum and leave to remain as a survivor of trafficking and to claim compensation for being wrongly detained. She has now been granted permission to stay in the UK as a confirmed victim of trafficking (VTS leave to remain). It comes as a huge relief for Lucy as this is her first grant of leave to remain in the country since claiming asylum 10 years ago.



Lucy is among the 504 survivors to whom we provided legal protection services in 2024. The capacity and availability of high-quality legal aid solicitors to take on such complex cases remained a key challenge for survivors in 2024. An increased number of our clients appealed a Home Office decision. Lack of appropriate legal support remains a huge vulnerability factor for survivors, who often share they feel forced into exploitative work and unmanageable debt to pay for basic legal help. The government's introduction of e-visas and ending of biometric residence permits added further strain to the limited capacity of the legal protection team within our organisation and the wider immigration and asylum sector. Despite these challenges, our legal protection team achieved life changing results for our clients, ensuring that they secured permission to stay in the UK and start rebuilding their lives.

- **54** of our MoIC clients received legal protection such as refugee status, humanitarian protection, or limited leave to remain
- **118** medico-legal reports, which document the long-term physical and psychological impact of traumatic experiences and are used as evidence for the more complex requests for international protection in the UK, were completed
- **91%** of clients for whom we provided a medico-legal report in 2023 (and where there is a known outcome) were granted a form of leave to remain in the UK in 2024
- **22** suitability assessments were provided to survivors accommodated at large sites such as RAF Wethersfield and Bibby Stockholm barge (now closed)

OUR TEAM OF DOCTORS PROVIDED VITAL MEDICAL ADVICE

When Nalini was referred to the Helen Bamber Foundation, she was suffering from horrific injuries at the hands of violent traffickers. After years of sexual abuse while being kept in appalling conditions, Nalini had severe respiratory disease, multiple untreated broken bones, and shocking injuries to her reproductive organs. Nalini had tried to go to her GP for treatment, but her PTSD prevented her from talking about her experiences, and she couldn't access the care she so desperately needed. Our Medical Advisory team worked with Nalini to help her feel safe talking about her trauma, and explain her injuries. We continued to work with Nalini and her GP to ensure that she could access the medical care she needed to begin rebuilding her life. Without our support Nalini would not have been able to access this lifesaving healthcare.



Photo of a Doctor's Room in the HBF Group Trauma Centre

Survivors like Nalini face innumerable barriers to vital healthcare. In 2024 we helped our clients overcome difficulty in talking about past experiences due to debilitating shame and trauma; a severe lack of interpreters in NHS appointments; inability to access online portals due to digital illiteracy, and many more challenges. Untreated medical needs impede survivors' ability to fully recover from trauma including neurological and respiratory disorder, as well as fractures, wounds and injuries to sexual and reproductive organs, with the most vulnerable people suffering in silence. Our team of doctors and volunteers advocate on behalf of our clients, requesting the use of interpreters and longer appointments, and for a trauma-informed approach. This ensures that survivors feel safe during medical examinations and are able to fully understand their condition and treatment options.

- **184** clients were supported to access desperately needed care by our medical advisory team in 2024
- **62** medical needs assessments were conducted for clients

WE PREVENTED HOMELESSNESS AND ENSURED SURVIVORS CAN ACCESS ASYLUM SUPPORT



“Because in the UK I have no friends, no relatives, and because of the language barrier, I don’t know what to do. Fortunately, you are there to help me.”

Agnesa, a survivor of human trafficking and sexual slavery, was referred to us after she had been identified by the emergency services as being street homeless. She had been sleeping on the street for many months, isolated, vulnerable, and at severe risk of exploitation from opportunistic criminals.

As soon as we identified the risk she was under, our Housing and Welfare team worked tirelessly to ensure that Agnesa could access safe accommodation. Initially, Agnesa was placed in a shared room in an asylum hotel. The conditions of the room were appalling, and given her complex trauma, she did not feel safe sharing a room with others. We worked together with a solicitor to challenge the suitability of this accommodation, and Agnesa was moved to a flat where she could live in safety and security.

Safe and secure housing is absolutely vital in helping survivors gain the confidence and stability to engage in community and build the strength to thrive. Since living in her new flat, Agnesa has become a regular face at the Helen Bamber Foundation’s community group and now feels safe from revictimisation.



Agnesa is one of many survivors who received critical support from our Housing and Welfare team to stay off the streets and access safe housing. The team **prevented 59 clients from becoming homeless in 2024**, a vital step in protecting vulnerable survivors from further harm.

- **380** clients accessed financial and housing support thanks to our Housing and Welfare team in 2024
- We helped **100** people in hotel accommodation access vital support: bank vouchers, school uniforms for their children, and emergency relief
- We made **14,181** interactions with, or on behalf of, our clients. This included contact with solicitors, the Home Office, and local authorities, helping survivors to navigate complex bureaucracy to access the support they need
- **£104,322** of backdated benefits were received by clients, which would not have been claimed if not for our intervention. This money was vital in alleviating destitution amongst our clients
- **£8,268** of NHS debt owed by our clients was cancelled due to our help. This included charges for the treatment provided after an attempted overdose and for a termination of pregnancy following sexual assault

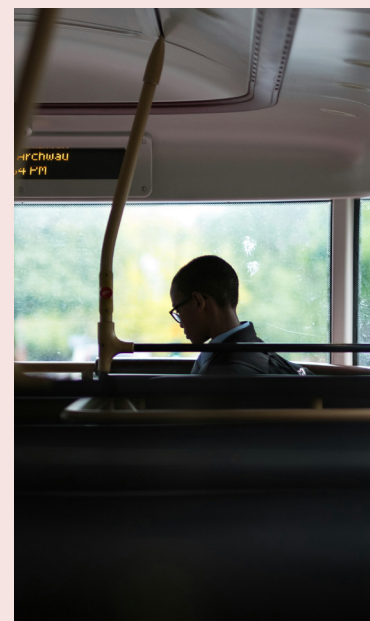
WE SAFEGUARDED OUR CLIENTS FROM RE-TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION



“Yesterday, for the first time, I ate and slept without stress. Of course, before going to sleep, I remembered you and the kind team of Helen Bamber Foundation when I prayed. You are the only one who is keeping my head high and I thank you for that.”

Sade, a survivor of trafficking and exploitation from Nigeria, had a difficult upbringing and lost her family at a young age. She was promised a babysitting job in the UK but, upon arrival, she was locked in a house and sexually exploited for five years. After escaping, Sade remained too scared to approach the police. She then worked for three years in a restaurant for no pay, in exchange for accommodation, feeling she had nowhere else to go. Eventually, a woman at church informed her about the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the UK's system for identifying and supporting someone as a victim of trafficking. Sade was referred for support and was eventually taken onboard as an HBF client. We conducted a 'trafficking assessment', which involved understanding her history of exploitation and the risk of being re-trafficked. This was especially important, since Sade had no documents and we knew very little about her past experiences.

Sade was initially hesitant to open up to our Counter Trafficking team as she struggled to trust others, but slowly she started to develop a relationship of trust. With time, we gained her confidence, and she started attending our textiles classes, where she learned to knit and began to build a community of support with other survivors who shared her experiences. HBF's Counter Trafficking and Legal Protection teams worked with Sade's solicitor to strengthen her asylum application, which would enable her to stay in the UK. Our team continues to speak with Sade regularly to ensure that she is safe and not vulnerable to being exploited again.



In 2024, our Counter Trafficking service played a key role in helping an increasing number of clients who were recognised as 'victims of trafficking' but had been refused permission to stay in the UK. Many also had their asylum claims rejected or were given Notices of Intent for removal to Rwanda. Without the right support, survivors of trafficking are at severe risk of revictimisation and re-exploitation; our Counter Trafficking team provides the crucial care needed to prevent this. Throughout the year, the team increased the number of client appointments and raised the overall monitoring of risks to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

- **188** clients were protected from revictimisation by our Counter Trafficking team in 2024
- **895** appointments were undertaken by our Counter Trafficking team delivering the in-depth support needed to keep survivors safe
- **2,815** interactions were made with clients outside their appointments to ensure their ongoing safety and welfare
- **66** advocacy letters were submitted for grant of asylum, temporary leave to remain post grant of Conclusive Grounds decision, reduction in reporting conditions, and housing. These letters are crucial evidence that help survivors access their legal rights
- **6,315** interventions were made by the Counter Trafficking team. This included liaising with professionals on behalf of the client, such as Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC) providers, solicitors and the police

WE BUILT COMMUNITIES FOR SURVIVORS



"I like to relax playing games. I like food. I feel better when I meet with people, talking. Before, I didn't [want] to talk to men, but here I can talk to the people I meet in this community because you are my family."

At the start of 2024, Linh, a Vietnamese survivor of trafficking, began attending our weekly textiles group. This activity, run by our community and integration team, helps survivors to form friendships and support networks through sewing and knitting. Due to her traumatic experiences, Linh found it extremely difficult to use public transport to attend the sessions and would feel distressed. She switched to travelling by taxi but upon arrival, would curl up in a corner of the room with her head in her hands. Although she would seldom engage with others, she attended each week. Our team used trauma-informed approaches to make her comfortable, which involved offering flexibility and space for her to take her time to adjust to new settings. A few sessions later, we noticed significant changes. Linh would now hug others when she arrived and before she left. She would share her ideas and show others what she had made. Around this time, she had successfully undertaken stabilisation therapy with our therapists. We could see it was immensely helping her.

Now Linh is not only a familiar face in the textiles group, but also attends our English classes, women's yoga sessions, and fortnightly community gatherings. She is comfortable taking public transport and travels with a friend she made in the yoga class. As soon she arrives, her face lights up and she says: "Here is good."



Our community and integration team help clients like Linh regain their trust in people and society through one-on-one casework and a range of trauma-informed activities. These include a Creative Arts and Skills Programme (CASP), yoga, textiles and English classes, support with accessing education, employability and training schemes, as well as helping people access gym memberships, college bursaries, laptops, bicycles, and external social integration opportunities. These opportunities are incredibly important in helping survivors develop the skills, networks, and confidence they need to participate in society.

A highlight of 2024 was the development of our partnership between Arsenal Football Club and Freedom from Torture, a charity that provides therapeutic care for survivors of torture seeking protection in the UK. The partnership has been steadily growing, and at the end of the year, we had a surprise visit from a few Arsenal players like Raheem Sterling and Jurrien Timber, who played a match with our clients. Clients who have been long-time fans of Arsenal were overjoyed to play with the club's players in their home stadium in London.

- **269** clients benefited from our community and integration services in 2024
- **116** took part in our Creative Arts and Skills Programme activities. These activities helped clients learn new skills and rebuild their trust in others
- **46** clients were supported to get gym memberships to improve survivors' physical wellbeing, and aid recovery from long-term injuries
- **59** clients were referred to education providers, where clients could learn English, financial literacy, and other skills vital to participating in the community

WE SUPPORTED SURVIVORS TO REGAIN INDEPENDENCE AND GRADUATE FROM OUR SERVICES



“Reflecting on the past year, I am reminded of the profound impact your organization has had on individuals like me. Your assistance has been invaluable, and I am truly thankful for your commitment to making a difference in my life.”

Our work with our clients is not restricted to a limited period, as the road to recovery is long and not linear. Regaining independence is integral to moving on, and we aid and support until individuals are back on their feet. By the time they are ready to leave our service, survivors have the power, safety and freedom to thrive independently.

- **43** clients formally graduated from the Helen Bamber Foundation in 2024. Each graduate has developed the stability to thrive beyond the need for our support. **91%** had seen an improvement in their mental health during their time with us
- **93** clients were in the process of graduating in 2024. We work closely with all graduating clients, to ensure they are fully equipped to participate full in their communities, and have access to any further support they may need



ASYLUM AID ENSURED THAT MANY MORE PEOPLE RECEIVE PROTECTION, AND ARE TREATED FAIRLY AND WITH DIGNITY

In 2024, Asylum Aid successfully expanded its capacity to provide legal representation to many more vulnerable men, women, non-binary people and children, each with a complex case, requiring the highest quality of legal support. We are proud to have provided this, and our work has not gone unnoticed. Our annual Lexcel audit, a nationally recognised legal practice quality mark awarded by the Law Society, stated that Asylum Aid 'demonstrated outstanding commitment to client care and quality of service'. In December 2024, the Legal Aid Agency awarded us a rare rating of 'excellent' (level 1) following a peer review of a sample of our files.

ASYLUM AID CHANGED LIVES

- **246** clients received legal representation
- **50** clients were granted protection
- **93** new clients were taken onboard
- **764** individuals received support through our Westminster Advice Services Partnership
- **108** children and young people received vital legal representation
- **82** survivors of trafficking and/or torture received legal support
- **22** stateless people received legal representation and 3 were recognised as stateless and given permission to stay
- **9** families were reunited
- **35** people at risk of rough sleeping received immigration advice

TRANSFORMED SYSTEMS

- Asylum Aid ensured that the Safety of Rwanda Act was repealed
- We challenged the Home Office's decision to deem thousands of people inadmissible to the asylum system, which had left them living in limbo
- We revealed the problems with access to justice for people held at Wethersfield
- We fought against delays in asylum decision-making
- We challenged two policies that make family reunion much harder for two groups of vulnerable people: those living in conflict zones and stateless people
- We led a coalition to champion asylum rights and justice

AND BUILT PARTNERSHIPS AND LEGAL CAPACITY

- Asylum Aid trained and supervised our second cohort of Immigration Advice Authority (IAA) Level 2 advisers to take on more complex asylum and human rights casework across the country in advice deserts
- Our Justice First Fellow completed her training contract, working on 20 cases during her training period
- Under our Migrant Justice Greater London Project, we delivered remote supervision to IAA advisers in small community-led organisations across London

PART II: WE EMPOWERED AND TRAINED OUR PARTNERS TO DELIVER TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

At HBF Group, we recognise that there is unfortunately a limit to the number of survivors we can directly support. That's why we firmly believe that partnerships and collaborations can help us have much wider impact and bring lasting change. By partnering with other charities in the sector and training professionals, we empower them to work with survivors in a trauma-informed way, significantly increasing the services available to thousands more survivors in the UK and internationally. This helps us increase the number of support services available to survivors in the UK and internationally.

In 2024, we trained more than 1,000 professionals to deliver trauma-informed support to survivors.

We conducted training across four broad areas: how to reduce the risk of re-trafficking and further exploitation by providing trauma-informed support; therapeutic approaches to working with refugee and asylum-seeking populations; the application of medico-legal evidence in legal representations; and how to provide high quality legal representation for individuals with complex cases, and in reuniting families.

Our long-standing partnership with Young Roots, a charity that supports young refugees, successfully completed its fifth year.

Our therapy team supported the expansion of Young Roots' services by providing support to **142** survivors. As a result of our work, clients had greatly improved mental health, and our colleagues in Young Roots had increased confidence in referring their clients to other health providers, so that more vulnerable young people are protected.

Since forming our partnership with Glasspool Charity Trust in April 2024, eligible clients of our clients received vital funds to purchase everyday necessities such as school uniforms for their children, furniture and groceries. This has not only been life-changing for survivors who have been experiencing financial difficulties, but has also enabled us to spend less time on extensive applications for small grants to other organisations, thereby creating more capacity within our charity.

We delivered a route out of homelessness for survivors through our partnership with the Refugee and Migrant Forum of Essex and London (RAMFEL). Since 2022, we have been working with RAMFEL to provide immigration advice to people who have slept on the streets or were at risk of doing so. More than half of the clients referred to us under this partnership have significant mental and/or physical health issues. They often have a history of trafficking, exploitation, abuse or have criminal records, often linked to their lack of immigration status. Regularising immigration status can be a route out of homelessness as it enables vulnerable people to access accommodation, financial support and vital medical care while their applications are pending. By securing their stay, they can access housing, benefits and the labour market, rebuilding their lives. **Since the project started in October 2022, we have taken 44 cases, with five clients securing immigration status to date following our advice,** and many more with applications still pending decisions.

In 2024 we launched our sector-leading pilot partnership with the British Red Cross, delivering trauma-focused services for those fleeing conflict, trafficking and torture and who find themselves in areas where there is little provision of specialised mental health treatments. This pilot will also provide the opportunity to build networks with local health care networks, training them on trauma-informed approaches when working with vulnerable refugees, ensuring the sustainability of our impact.

We upskilled therapists through the Central and North West London NHS Trust IAPT partnership by bringing our expertise to a programme commissioned by NHS England. With a view to Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), we trained high-intensity therapists to work with people seeking asylum and refugees in high-dispersal areas across the UK. Many services lacked experience in working with this client group, and some were refusing clients seeking asylum because of false notions that they would be 'too complex', with too many practical problems or too much insecurity for them to be able to benefit from the treatments for PTSD that other IAPT clients benefitted from. **In 2024, we trained and supervised around 80 therapists, who went on to provide trauma-informed services to hundreds of survivors.**

We trained more than 260 professionals across organisations that provide support to survivors of modern slavery. Our counter-trafficking expertise is at the heart of our training on the provision of trauma-informed services, and in 2024 we improved the service provision for thousands of survivors by training organisations in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland within a subcontractor under the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract.



PART III: WE ADVOCATED FOR BETTER SYSTEMS AND POLICIES

As human rights advocates, we are uniquely placed, due to our extensive breadth of expertise, research and influence, to bear witness to the experiences of survivors; to support the fight for their rights to be upheld; and to drive systemic change. Our advocacy work is rooted firmly in the lived experiences of survivors, including our clients as we know that to successfully transform people's lives, they must be at the centre of their own care. We use our authoritative medico-legal expertise, alongside evidence from frontline work and research, to secure ongoing policy change; work collaboratively; and support survivors to advocate for the change they want to see.

Following the election of a new government in July 2024 we saw some significant and welcome changes to the asylum and immigration systems. A new government focused on competence and with respect for international law brought renewed hope that survivors will be protected, supported and able to rebuild their lives. We continued to call for compassionate, fair and efficient asylum and trafficking systems in the UK that are lawful, well-resourced and safeguard the most vulnerable.

LEGAL PROTECTION

We strongly opposed the Illegal Migration Act (IMA) and lobbied against the passage of the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024. We were pleased to see the new government announce straight away that it was scrapping the Rwanda removals plan and ending the retrospective nature of IMA provisions. This allowed the Home Office to start dealing with the 'perma-backlog' of asylum claims made after March 2023 that had previously been on hold. We then worked with the Home Office Asylum Strategic Engagement Group (ASEG) to ensure that initial asylum decisions are fair and timely, and that the process, including interviews, does not cause harm.

We have long highlighted the legal aid crisis and decimation of the sector, in part due to the low amount given to legal aid providers taking on asylum cases. We have called for changes to legal aid support rates and were pleased to see the government announce an increase to these at the end of October 2024.

PREVENTION OF RE-TRAFFICKING

A lack of secure immigration status can also result in fear, isolation and poverty, leaving survivors of trafficking vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and re-trafficking. Through research and evidence, we have clearly demonstrated the need for survivors to have secure immigration status. Our evidence was used in successful legal challenges and helped push the government to reconsider its policy on grants of leave for those recognised as victims under the National Referral Mechanism.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Our [groundbreaking research](#) has shown that the Home Office is incorrectly treating hundreds of children seeking asylum as adults, based on a short visual assessment on arrival in the UK, and that this 'age dispute' process is causing significant harm to children. Our evidence was repeatedly cited in parliamentary debates on the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill and has fed into strategic litigation. We are working with the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ACDS) to revise guidance for social workers.

SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

We have worked tirelessly to highlight the harm caused to survivors forced into an environment of extreme isolation in harmful accommodation and ex-military sites. We submitted evidence to parliament and published two key reports on the impact of [hotels](#) and of [RAF Wethersfield](#) on the mental health of survivors. The latter was used in the key legal challenge to the use of Wethersfield.

With Freedom from Torture, we brought a joint legal challenge to changes to the Allocation of Asylum Accommodation policy that would increase the number of survivors of torture and trafficking who are forced to share bedrooms with strangers and remain in unsuitable accommodation. The case was ongoing during the drafting of this report.

In response to increased pressure, the government announced that it would stop using hotels, the Bibby Stockholm, and Napier barracks to accommodate people seeking asylum, and scrapped plans to open new accommodation in RAF Scampton. The Prime Minister committed to closing RAF Wethersfield before the election, but this has not yet happened. While it remained open, we worked with the Home Office to improve access to legal advice at the site. Through legal advocacy, strategic evidence submission, and public engagement, we remain committed to ending the use of detention-like asylum accommodation for survivors to ensure their right to safety.

RECOVERY AND INTEGRATION

Working closely with the Home Office, MPs and Peers, we successfully challenged the introduction of short-notice evictions of newly recognised refugees from asylum accommodation. We were pleased to see a significant shift in the government's operations and a pilot of double the 'move-on' period to new refugees to 56 days to avoid these risks reoccurring.

OUR RESEARCH: KEY TO INFLUENCING POLICY AND PRACTICE

HBf's research is grounded in the lived experiences of our clients, the expertise of our staff and volunteers, and the systemic problems we witness. In 2024, in collaboration with clients and staff, we published research that continues to have significant and wide-ranging implications on public policy and practice and our collective understanding of the experiences of survivors. These included:

[Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in the Asylum System](#)

Published in *Medicine, Science and the Law* in January 2024, this research paper reviews the applications of AI tools in the asylum context and considers their impact across diverse ranges of human activity, including law, governance and administration.

[A mile in their shoes: understanding health-care journeys of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK](#)

Published in the *International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care* in February 2024, this research gains a more comprehensive understanding of the current barriers to healthcare for people seeking asylum and refugees, and provides key recommendations for the NHS and other service providers.

[The psychological impact of the age dispute process on unaccompanied children seeking asylum in the UK](#)

Published in May 2024, this research advocates for a shift from using chronological age to individual vulnerability while determining the needs of asylum-seeking children and young people.

[Mass containment sites for people seeking asylum must be abandoned](#)

This opinion piece, published in the *BMJ*, illustrates how mass containment sites are not suitable accommodation for anyone seeking asylum, and argues that they are particularly damaging for people with trauma and poor health.

[Remote immigration and asylum advice: what we know and what we need to know](#)

This research was co-produced with A&M Consultancy, a lived experience consultancy, and was a partnership between HBF, Asylum Aid and Public Law Project. It analysed the advantages and disadvantages of providing remote legal advice and recommended that the Ministry of Justice should establish best practice guidance for remote advice, in consultation with a broad range of legal aid providers, clients and interpreters, among other stakeholders.

[Asylum interviews in the UK: do they follow the Home Office's interview guidelines? A pilot study](#)

Published in August 2024, this study was undertaken by the University of Birmingham and HBF to understand whether it was possible for caseworkers to adhere to the Home Office's interview guidelines. The researchers examined interview transcripts, focusing on traumatic conversations about sexual and gender-based violence.

[Experiences and impact of moral injury in human trafficking survivors: a qualitative study](#)

This research can be used by clinical care teams and organisations that support trafficking survivors to shape and inform targeted guidance and support to ensure those affected by 'moral injury' receive high quality care.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

HBF STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS: A COMMUNITY EFFORT

We can only provide the standard of services required by our clients thanks to the dedication, professionalism and vision of our staff and volunteers. During 2024, on an average head count basis, we had 76 employees across the HBF Group: 51 at HBF and 25 at Asylum Aid. Throughout the year, we were supported by 60 volunteers at HBF and four volunteers at Asylum Aid, among them doctors, therapists, teachers, solicitors, administrators and other specialists.

We are also immensely grateful and privileged that Professor Cornelius Katona, our Honorary Medical and Research Director, and Dr Jane Hunt, our Senior Medical Advisor, continue to be members of the Helen Bamber Foundation team on a voluntary basis.

MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE: MAXIMISING IMPACT AND PRODUCTIVITY

HBF and Asylum Aid are independent charities. We have developed a group structure to maximise the impact we have on the lives of survivors of trafficking and torture. We share back-office support, including executives, finance, HR, volunteer management, facilities and fundraising. Asylum Aid has seven Trustees, three of whom, including the Chair of the Finance and Fundraising Committee, also serve on the HBF Board, to ensure strong governance and joint strategic alignment, as well as independent decision-making.

To ensure independence, as well as greater impact for the Group, HBF and Asylum Aid do not share clients. The Managing Executives provide day-to-day management of the Group through a Management Group made up of the Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Directors, and Heads of Teams. The Finance and Fundraising Committee (HBF Group), the People and Governance Committee (HBF Group) and the Clinical Governance and Safeguarding Committee (HBF only), bring together Trustees and management team members. The HBF Board of Trustees, under its Chair, Adam Epstein, and supported by the Asylum Aid Trustees, provided strong strategic oversight and governance of the Group throughout 2024.

VOLUNTEERS: THE PILLAR OF OUR WORK

Our volunteers are the backbone of our achievements. We believe in nurturing our volunteers and ensuring that the experience for them is both professionally and personally rewarding.

- Our volunteers logged more than 4,240 interactions with clients across 2024
- 475 clients received support from volunteers in 2024



"My experience at HBF came at a time where helping others with my skills benefitted me a great deal. I was having challenges with my mental health and volunteering my skills for those who have suffered real turmoil and exploitation was not only rewarding but also helped me put things into perspective."

Lena, Textiles Group volunteer

2025: SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

We take immense pride in all the work we have done over the last year. As we have come to the end of our 2022-2024 strategy, we are delighted to have met our goals, expanded our direct services with compassion and kindness to support more survivors than ever before, and worked collaboratively with other organisations to transform the systems that impact survivors.

Globally, there are over 123 million people forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict or human rights violence, a factor that increases a person's risk of being trafficked. There is increased demand for our services, and to respond to this need for trauma-informed care and legal representation, we have made the strategic investment in the Trauma Centre. The Centre will transform our impact, enabling us to serve more clients, build new partnerships nationally, deliver best practice training across the sector, and influence systems change.

In 2025, we will build on our achievements and embark on the next phase of our growth, so we can reach even more survivors. Going forward, we will:

- Increase the number of survivors to whom we provide direct support, and build capacity in the sector to provide quality legal advice and effective trauma treatment that works and prevents re-trafficking
- Partner with more organisations and charities to increase the support available to survivors in the UK and increase collaboration with grassroots and lived experience-led organisations
- Use evidence, expertise and legal challenges to secure policy changes and reduce the impact of harmful systems on the mental health of survivors

We are able to achieve our ambitious goals and make a meaningful difference to many, thanks to your continued support. We could not have done any of this without your generosity and encouragement. Your solidarity brings us and thousands of survivors hope for the future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

Our policies relating to reserves and the need to generate an annual operating surplus provide a financial framework within which the Helen Bamber Foundation Group seeks to function.

RESERVES POLICY

Our Group reserves policy is to maintain an unrestricted general fund of between three and six months of gross expenditure for the next financial year. This target level of reserves is kept under review by the trustees. It has been set to provide the charity with sufficient funds to accommodate potential cost of identified risks, without being excessive and reducing funds available to further the Helen Bamber Foundation Group's charitable objects.

The Group Board of Trustees made the strategic decision to invest unrestricted free reserves in the Trauma Centre, in addition to using the established designated fund. Trustees agreed that reserves could be taken below the policy target level, to two months' cover. After allowing for designated funds (note 15a), in December 2024 the Helen Bamber Foundation Group ended the year with unrestricted general funds of £758,920 at the end of 2024 representing 2 months' cover.

The Board are committed to growing reserves to between 3 and 6 months over the next three years. We have a strong, committed and diversified donor base, and a long-term history of successful fundraising from both existing and new donors. This, along with strong financial governance, which dictates our expenditure, means that we are confident that we are able to deliver against the goal of growing reserves.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

The trustees have designated the following funds:

- Casework in progress – A designated fund to represent the value of work in progress done by Asylum Aid relating to legal cases at the year-end, which is an illiquid asset £1,066,760 (2023: £483,240). Asylum Aid provides legal representation to vulnerable clients with complex cases. These cases and support provided by the charity can take multiple years to conclude and cannot be billed until the conclusion of the case. The casework in progress resulting from this work is an asset which we have a reasonable expectation will become convertible into cash at a future date, but the trustees have created a designated fund to exclude it from free reserves due to the uncertainty over timing and amount. The increase in our casework in progress designated fund is due to an increase in activity as a result of growth in the organisation's capacity to deliver this complex casework, as well as ongoing delays in cases reaching conclusion, impacting our ability to realise the funds.
- A designated fund to represent the net book value of the charity's fixed assets £49,451 (2023: £36,037).
- Rent-free inducement – A designated fund to reflect accounting treatment of the inducement of the operating lease. -£232,694 (2023: £nil)
- New Premise Fund – A designated fund to represent the net book value of the leasehold improvement and fixtures for the Trauma Centre and office premises. This fund has increased due to the Capital Project and investment in the Trauma Centre. £1,038,632 (2023: £218,616)

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In 2024, activities resulted in a group surplus of £948,002, and total Funds of £2,962,024 (£2,014,022 in 2023) comprising of unrestricted funds of £2,681,070 (£1,682,389 in 2023) and restricted funds of £280,954 (£331,633 in 2023). A budget showing a surplus has been set for 2025, to support the rebuilding of our reserves.

RISKS

The significant risks to which HBF Group is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate these risks. Among the risks identified, the most significant are considered to be:

- The need to rebuild our reserves following the significant investment in the Capital Project.
- The challenge of the delays in receipt of Legal Aid funding due to delays in decision making and therefore closure of cases.
- The increasingly inhumane environment facing our client group and corresponding ineffectiveness of the asylum system, which results in a higher likelihood of an increase in the complexity of needs and higher demand for our services.
- The uncertain funding environment for human rights globally that may impact on funding in the UK.
- The increasing struggle that junior members of the team have in finding affordable housing in London due to increasing rents and the impact of the cost of living rises.
- Moral injury and risk of burnout to staff resulting from our work with clients with complex needs, and hostile operating environment including increasing far right activity in the UK and international conflicts and oppression.

These risks are mitigated in part through close operational monitoring and prioritisation of the reserves policy as well as the oversight of the Finance and Fundraising Committee, and the People and Governance Committee.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS AND GOING CONCERN

The trustees continue to engage measures to mitigate the risks to HBF Group from the ongoing delays in decision-making by the Home Office and by the courts, which have caused delays in receiving income from the Legal Aid Agency for work done, as well as leaving many of our clients waiting unacceptably long periods in immigration uncertainty. The Legal Aid Agency suffered a major cyber incident in spring 2025 which has led to their online systems for legal aid applications and billing being taken offline for an extended period. Asylum Aid has been able to mitigate the impact of this on its work and cashflow through the contingency arrangements provided by the LAA and a focus on inter partes billing, which is unaffected. The trustees continue to focus on fundraised income during this period, and kept an eye on the rising cost of living and its impact on remuneration, retention and recruitment.

The trustees use additional Finance and Fundraising Committee meetings where needed, and to provide clear parameters that support our reserves policy for the budget setting. The Capital Appeal has enabled us to raise our profile with a wide range of donors and we are actively building upon these relationships to support ongoing charitable activity in the Trauma Centre.

Taking into account these steps and the reserves held at the year-end by the Helen Bamber Foundation Group, the trustees consider it reasonable to expect that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the trustees continue to adopt the 'going concern' basis in preparing the accounts. The trustees and senior management have increased the regularity of financial forecasts in both the short and medium term. We continue to strengthen our financial processes and systems so we can monitor financial risk, and where required, take appropriate management action.

RELATED PARTIES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

During the year the HBF Group received a total of £75,000 unrestricted donations from 1 Trustee.

SUMMARY RESULTS OF THE SUBSIDIARY (ASYLUM AID)

Asylum Aid had a successful year in 2024, which ended in a surplus of £620,274 (£520,134 in 2023).

Total Funds as of 31st December 2024 were £1,678,363 (2023: £1,058,089) which consist of unrestricted free reserves of £408,759 (2023: £257,103). This represents the equivalent of three months of unrestricted expenditure, and restricted reserves of £261,017 (2023: £292,746). The casework work in progress (WIP) designated fund £1,066,760 (2023: £483,240) described above is excluded from Asylum Aid's unrestricted free reserves as it is an illiquid asset.

REMUNERATION POLICY

The objectives of HBF's remuneration policy are to:

- Reward staff appropriately and enable the recruitment and retention of high calibre personnel.
- Ensure the proper use of the charity's resources in accordance with its aims and within affordable limits, based on the financial circumstances of the charity.
- Be non-discriminatory, just and equitable in the evaluation of jobs and their remuneration by providing a stable framework for the remuneration of the team.
- Pay at a competitive level, taking account of external market rates — with an aim to set pay around the median level for comparable posts in the voluntary sector, subject to the charity's financial position.
- Operate within the law.

Remuneration is reviewed on an annual basis and agreed by the Board of Trustees. When setting pay levels, the charity gives consideration to external benchmark comparators, changes in the national average earnings index, affordability and other internal and external pressures, including recruitment and retention. The policy applies to all staff, including the charity's executive team.

FUNDRAISING

HBF Group's fundraising team produces an annual Income Generation Strategy against which performance is regularly monitored by senior management and trustees. In 2024, HBF continued to adapt to the challenging fundraising environment, and successfully raised £4,295,122 thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

HBF Group's fundraising approach reflects the principles published on the HBF's website www.helenbamber.org. The charity's fundraising programme is delivered using internal resources and in 2024 we did not use external professional fundraisers, nor did we use commercial participators. HBF Group does not generate merchandise for fundraising purposes.

HBF Group is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Registration represents a commitment to the highest standards of practice and ensures that all fundraising activity is open, legal and fair. As a registered participant, HBF Group commits to the Board's Codes of Fundraising Practice, which is the standard set for fundraisers in the UK. Registered participants also commit to abide by its Fundraising Promise, which is based on five key pledges that reflect the core values of respect, honesty, accountability and transparency. HBF Group is strongly committed to recognised sector standards and is actively working to protect vulnerable people and other members of the public from behaviour which:

- Is an unreasonable intrusion on a person's privacy.
- Is unreasonably persistent.
- Places undue pressure on a person to give money or other property.

HBF Group has received no complaints in regard to its fundraising activities in 2024.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

In setting HBF Group's objectives and planning its activities, the Board of Trustees has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. In particular, the Board of Trustees considers how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set. The Helen Bamber Foundation Group has been established to help the following, people who:

- are seeking asylum or other forms of protection in the UK;
- have already been granted refugee status, humanitarian protection or other forms of protection status by UK immigration authorities;
- have insecure immigration status or are stateless;
- are vulnerable by reason of their experience of torture, trafficking, hostilities, genocides or other atrocities or human cruelty,
- are vulnerable to destitution, exploitation, abuse, trafficking or other forms of human cruelty including but not limited to those outside their country of origin; and
- Are the dependants of those mentioned above.

The public benefit we provide is to benefit the above individuals through:

- relieving their conditions of need, hardship or distress;
- preserving and protecting their physical and mental health;
- advancing their education and training so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community;
- advancing public education about the position of and issues relating to the Beneficiaries, including gross violations of human rights, torture, atrocities and other forms of human cruelty and their effect on persons who suffer them;
- assisting them in such other exclusively charitable ways as the Charity determines from time to time.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees of the Helen Bamber Foundation (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). This report includes information contained in Asylum Aid's annual report; it is the trustees of Asylum Aid who are responsible for preparing their annual report and the financial statements contained therein.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming 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 Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware.
- 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 auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees of the Helen Bamber Foundation are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the Helen Bamber Foundation in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 December 2024 was eight (2023: eleven). The trustees are members of the Helen Bamber Foundation but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

AUDITOR

Sayer Vincent LLP was re-appointed as the charitable company's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity. The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 15 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by

John Scampion, Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HELEN BAMBER FOUNDATION

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Helen Bamber Foundation (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the group and parent charitable company balance sheets, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the group financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Helen Bamber Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the group financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the group financial statements does not cover the other information, and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the group financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the group financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINIONS ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements
- The trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

CAPABILITY OF THE AUDIT IN DETECTING IRREGULARITIES

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's and group's policies and procedures relating to:
- Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the group operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the group from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Joanna Pittman (Senior statutory auditor)

Date:

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor

110 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TG

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Consolidated statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

for the Helen Bamber Foundation Group (comprising the Helen Bamber Foundation and Asylum Aid)
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Total £
Income from:							
Donations – legal protection	2	594,835	404,645	999,480	345,301	366,668	711,969
Donations – therapy and casework	2	-	256,110	256,110	-	69,974	69,974
Donations – community integration	2	-	77,735	77,735	-	50,591	50,591
Donations – counter trafficking	2	-	-	-	-	26,061	26,061
Donations – research, policy, dissemination	2	-	54,000	54,000	-	1,522	1,522
Donations – capital appeal	2	-	910,179	910,179	-	-	-
Donations – general	2	1,934,618	63,000	1,997,618	1,638,733	97,774	1,736,507
Charitable activities							
Fees from medical legal reports – Legal protection		145,420	-	145,420	85,434	-	85,434
Other legal services		866,069	-	866,069	460,132	38,322	498,454
Westminster ASP		124,745	-	124,745	117,191	-	117,191
MLP Income		-	251,104	251,104	-	398,461	398,461
Other income		77,716	-	77,716	70,114	-	70,114
Bank interest		11,079	-	11,079	11,099	-	11,099
Total income		3,754,482	2,016,773	5,771,255	2,728,004	1,049,373	3,777,377
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	3	430,226	-	430,226	299,144	-	299,144
Charitable activities							
Legal protection	3	1,584,615	854,541	2,439,156	825,696	658,953	1,484,649
Therapy and casework	3	303,193	162,109	465,302	470,743	85,269	556,012
Community integration	3	106,606	86,623	193,229	71,437	72,304	143,741
Counter trafficking	3	585,140	-	585,140	579,810	70,297	650,107
Research, policy and dissemination	3	284,710	54,000	338,710	312,405	23,320	335,725
Other – capital project		-	371,490	371,490	-	-	-
Total expenditure		3,294,490	1,528,763	4,823,253	2,559,235	910,143	3,469,378
Net income for the year before transfers	4	459,992	488,010	948,002	168,769	139,230	307,999
Transfers between funds		-	(538,689)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		998,681	(50,679)	948,002	168,769	139,230	307,999
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		1,682,389	331,633	2,014,022	1,513,620	192,403	1,706,023
Total funds carried forward		2,681,070	280,954	2,962,024	1,682,389	331,633	2,014,022

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 15a to the financial statements.

Balance sheets

As at 31 December 2024

Company no. 08186281

		The group		The charity Helen Bamber Foundation	
		2024	2023	2024	2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	8	1,111,790	36,037	1,088,082	22,853
		1,111,790	36,037	1,088,082	22,853
Current assets:					
Debtors	11	549,002	268,615	496,264	257,052
Casework-in-progress		1,066,760	483,240	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		1,428,598	1,835,115	427,067	869,097
		3,044,360	2,586,970	923,331	1,126,149
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12a	(721,432)	(608,985)	(313,232)	(193,070)
Net current assets		2,322,928	1,977,985	610,099	933,079
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	12b	(472,694)	-	(414,521)	-
Total Net Assets		2,962,024	2,014,022	1,283,660	955,932
Funds:	15a				
Restricted income funds		280,955	331,633	19,938	38,888
Unrestricted income funds:					
Designated fixed asset fund		49,451	36,037	49,451	22,853
Designated Casework-in-Progress		1,066,760	483,240	-	-
Designated Fund – Rent Free Period		(232,694)	-	(174,521)	-
Designated- New Premise Fund		1,038,632	218,616	1,038,632	193,616
Designated WIP					
General funds		758,920	944,496	350,160	700,575
Total unrestricted funds		2,681,069	1,682,389	1,263,722	917,044
Total funds		2,962,024	2,014,022	1,283,660	955,932

Approved by the trustees on 15 September and signed on their behalf by

John Scampion
Treasurer

Consolidated statement of cash flows

for the Helen Bamber Foundation Group (comprising the Helen Bamber Foundation and Asylum Aid)
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		948,001	307,999
Depreciation charges		54,853	12,917
(Increase) / decrease in debtors		(280,387)	170,486
(Increase) in casework-in-progress		(583,520)	(247,699)
Increase in creditors		345,142	233,892
Net cash provided by operating activities		484,084	477,595
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of fixed assets		(1,130,606)	(26,807)
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,130,606)	(26,807)
		1,428,598	1,835,115
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Cash inflows from new borrowing		240,000	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities		240,000	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(406,517)	450,788
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,835,115	1,384,327
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	a	1,428,598	1,835,115

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents and of net debt

	At 1 January 2024	Cash flows	Other non-cash changes	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,835,115	(406,517)	-	1,428,598
a Total cash and cash equivalents	1,835,115	(406,517)	-	1,428,598

Notes to the financial statements

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Helen Bamber Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in the United Kingdom.

The registered office address is 26 – 30 Westland Place, London, N1 7JH.

b) Basis of preparation

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) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its subsidiary Asylum Aid on a line by line basis. Transactions and balances between the charity and its subsidiary have been eliminated from the consolidated financial statements. Balances between the two entities are disclosed in the notes of the charity's balance sheet. A separate statement of financial activities, or income and expenditure account, for the charity itself is not presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

As of July 2023, the activities of the Migrant Law Project (MLP) were transferred to the Helen Bamber Foundation group subsidiary, Asylum Aid from Islington Law Centre. The transfer included staff working on the project, £200,000 in unrestricted funds to fund the next two years of the project, unspent restricted project funding allocated to the project, and work in progress on project files totalling approximately a further £200,000.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

c) Reporting period

The financial statements cover the year to 31 December 2024.

d) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

e) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

f) Recognition of income

Recognition of income takes place in accordance with applicable accounting policies and results are presented in accordance with the SORP. All incoming resources are included in the Statement of financial activities when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably. Grants and donations are recorded in the period in which they are received or the charity is entitled to the income.

Donations receivable for the general purposes of the charity are credited to Unrestricted funds and donations tied to a particular purpose are credited to Restricted funds.

Revenue grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable, whichever is earlier. Where unconditional entitlement to grants receivable is dependent on fulfilment of conditions within the charity's control, the incoming resources are recognised when there is sufficient evidence that conditions will be met. Where there is uncertainty as to whether the charity can meet such conditions, the incoming resource is deferred. When funding received is designated by the donor to be used in a specific future period, income is deferred.

Income from medico legal reports is recognised when the report has been completed and submitted to the customer and an invoice has been raised.

Contractual income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Work in Progress is valued at the average hourly rate paid by the Legal Aid Agency. Provision is made where necessary for irrecoverable amount of work in progress.

All other income, such as training fees, is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable probability. Legacies are included when there is reasonable probability of receipt, amount and timing.

Where income is received in advance of its recognition, it is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued and included in debtors.

g) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, 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 have been 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.

h) Recognition of expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis in the period to which the cost relates and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. Where costs cannot be directly attributable to particular activities, they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Overheads, salaries and governance costs are allocated between the activity headings on the basis of attributable employment cost, and an element of judgement is involved. Costs of raising funds are those costs, including fundraising expenditures, incurred by the charity to obtain funds. Support costs are those costs incurred which are not directly an output of the charitable activity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with enabling the charity to comply with external regulation, constitutional and statutory requirements and in providing support to the Trustees in the discharge of their statutory duties.

i) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £250. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use. Major components are treated as a separate asset where they have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits and are depreciated separately over its useful life.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Only individual assets costing £250 or more and not forming part of a larger project are capitalised. This level is periodically reviewed, along with the need for a formal impairment review.

Provision is made for depreciation of fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less the estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over 3 years and other fixed assets over 4 years.

j) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash 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 or similar account.

k) Recognition of liabilities and constructive liabilities

Liabilities, including constructive obligations, are recognised at the point at which the charity is deemed to have entered into a binding commitment. Provisions are recognised when there is a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation.

l) Leases

Rental costs under operating leases are charged to expenditure as incurred. Lease incentives received by the charity are released on a straight line basis to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period until the first break clause or, in the case of leases already existing, until the rent review.

m) Pensions

The charity contributes to a stakeholder pension scheme on behalf of its staff, and the cost is recognised as incurred.

n) Taxation status

As a charity, Helen Bamber Foundation is exempt from taxation of income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent these are applied charitably. No tax charge has arisen in the year.

o) Funds

The charity's financial statements are a consolidation of individual funds. These divide into two distinct categories: unrestricted and restricted.

Unrestricted funds

The use of these funds has not been restricted to a particular purpose by the donor. The unrestricted funds comprise the General fund and Designated funds.

General fund

The General fund is the working fund of the charity. It is not tied or designated as are the other funds for use for a particular or defined purpose. The General fund has to provide for the net deficit of any activities that have inadequate income of their own and for the general administration of the charity. It also provides working capital for operations and helps to provide resources to ensure that the charity is able to continue with its obligations in the event of a shortfall in income or unexpected upturn in expenditure. The current target level for the unrestricted general fund is between three and six months of the higher of projected gross income or gross expenditure for the next financial year.

Designated funds

Designated funds are those which have been allocated by the charity for particular purposes. The Fixed Asset reserve represents the net book value of the investment by the General fund in fixed assets.

Restricted funds

These are income funds tied to particular purposes. They include gifts made to the charity to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donors. Until funds are expended, they are placed on deposit or held in cash.

p) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due, after provision for doubtful debts.

2 Income from donations

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations – trusts and foundations	1,304,503	1,124,139	2,428,642	1,540,080	504,599	2,044,679
Donations – individuals	316,887	-	316,887	287,293	-	287,293
Donations – corporate	537,281	413,999	951,280	131,077	107,000	238,077
Donations – legacies	424,538	-	424,538	-	-	-
Other	9,244	164,531	173,775	25,584	991	26,575
	2,592,453	1,702,669	4,295,122	1,984,034	612,590	2,596,624

The “other” donations comprise income from community fundraising.

Restricted and unrestricted donations from trusts and foundations greater than £5,000 in 2024 (£5,000 in 2023) were as follows:-

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
The A. B. Charitable Trust	55,000	-	55,000	55,000	-	55,000
Anti Slavery International	-	5,180	5,180	-	-	-
City Bridge Foundation	-	63,000	63,000	32,250	-	32,250
The Clothworkers Foundation	-	100,000	100,000	-	-	-
The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Rayne Foundation	25,000	-	25,000	-	-	-
The Edward Gostling Foundation	-	40,000	40,000	-	-	-
Eleanor Rathbone Trust	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
Emmanuel Kaye Foundation	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	-
Comic Relief	-	-	-	-	22,084	22,084
The Evan Cornish Foundation	-	24,000	24,000	-	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	-	25,000	-	25,000
Glasspool Charity Trust	-	37,950	37,950	-	-	-
Lloyds Charitable Trust	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
The Henry Smith Charity	-	60,000	60,000	-	60,000	60,000
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	17,500	17,500	-	10,000	10,000
Strategic Legal Fund	-	14,040	14,040	-	30,000	30,000
The Legal Education Foundation	-	53,000	53,000	-	46,000	46,000
London Legal Support Trust	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
29th May 1961	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Mark Benevolent Fund	-	45,180	45,180	-	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	41,667	12,903	54,570	83,333	74,597	157,930
Oak Foundation	70,000	-	70,000	70,000	-	70,000
Persula Foundation	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
DD McPhail Charitable Settlement	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Postcode Equality Trust	600,000	-	600,000	600,000	-	600,000
Samworth Foundation	100,000	240,000	340,000	100,000	-	100,000
Sisters of the Holy Cross	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	-
The Souter Charitable Trust	45,000	-	45,000	45,000	-	45,000
Schroder Charity Trust	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
Tribe Freedom Foundation	-	-	-	35,000	-	35,000
Trust for London	-	61,850	61,850	-	67,970	67,970
William Kessler Family Charity	15,000	-	15,000	-	-	-
Disrupt Foundation	50,000	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000

2 Income from donations (continued)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unbound Philanthropy	20,000	-	20,000	25,000	-	25,000
Justice Together Initiative	-	95,855	95,855	-	88,860	88,860
Open Society Foundation	60,000	20,000	80,000	80,000	-	80,000
Good Law Ltd	-	-	-	-	29,040	29,040
Choose Love	-	80,000	80,000	-	-	-
Society of the Holy Child Jesus	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-
BBC Children In Need	-	25,000	25,000	-	-	-
Other trusts – Trusts under £5,000	16,753	18,185	34,938	19,498	35,547	55,045
Anonymous	93,500	33,241	126,741	290,000	40,500	330,500
Total	1,226,919	1,091,884	2,318,803	1,650,081	504,598	2,154,679

3a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities							2024 Total	2023 Total
	Cost of raising funds	Legal protection	Therapy and casework	Community and Integration	Counter Trafficking	Research, policy and dissemination	Support and Governance costs		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (Note 5)	256,614	1,397,686	256,906	96,264	365,842	192,838	236,937	2,803,087	2,347,744
Legal protection	-	460,238	-	-	-	-	-	460,238	334,218
Therapy and casework	-	-	50,673	-	-	-	-	50,673	86,714
Community and Integration	-	-	-	31,465	-	-	-	31,465	42,466
Counter Trafficking	-	-	-	-	20,954	-	-	20,954	17,602
Education, policy and research	-	-	-	-	-	31,060	-	31,060	40,589
Fundraising costs	27,779	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,779	22,708
Premises costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	754,171	754,171	269,356
Audit	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,170	21,170	23,000
Trustee expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160
Office and supplies costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	236,129	236,129	193,125
Irrecoverable VAT	-	-	-	-	-	-	310,742	310,742	73,587
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,853	54,853	12,917
Movement on doubtful debt provision	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,932	20,932	5,192
	284,393	1,857,924	307,579	127,729	386,796	223,898	1,634,934	4,823,253	3,469,378
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Support and Governance costs allocation	145,833	952,722	157,723	65,500	198,344	114,812	(1,634,934)	-	-
Total expenditure 2024	430,226	2,810,646	465,302	193,229	585,140	338,710	-	4,823,253	
Total expenditure 2023	299,144	1,484,649	556,012	143,741	650,107	335,725	-		3,469,378

Governance costs are included above under audit fees and trustees' expenses.

3b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Cost of raising funds	Charitable activities					Support and Governance costs	2023 Total
		Legal protection	Therapy and casework	Community and Integration	Counter Trafficking	Research, policy and dissemination		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (Note 5)	202,524	842,835	343,820	74,197	463,389	216,224	204,755	2,347,744
Legal protection	-	334,218	-	-	-	-	-	334,218
Therapy and casework	-	-	86,714	-	-	-	-	86,714
Community Integration and creative arts programme	-	-	-	42,466	-	-	-	42,466
Counter Trafficking	-	-	-	-	17,602	-	-	17,602
Education, policy and research	-	-	-	-	-	40,589	-	40,589
Fundraising costs	22,708	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,708
Premises costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	269,356	269,356
Audit	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,000	23,000
Trustee expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	160	160
Office and supplies costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	193,125	193,125
Irrecoverable VAT	-	-	-	-	-	-	73,587	73,587
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,917	12,917
Movement on doubtful debt provision	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,192	5,192
	225,232	1,177,053	430,534	116,663	480,991	256,813	782,092	3,469,378
Support and Governance costs allocation	73,912	307,596	125,478	27,078	169,116	78,912	(782,092)	-
Total expenditure 2023	299,144	1,484,649	556,012	143,741	650,107	335,725	-	3,469,378

Governance costs are included above under audit fees and trustees' expenses.

4 Net income for the year before transfers

This is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	54,853	12,917
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	116,834	151,545
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit of Helen Bamber Foundation	12,800	12,200
Over provision in prior year	(2,180)	-
Audit of Asylum Aid	9,400	9,000
Asylum Aid Corporation Tax Fees	1,150	-

5 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	2,429,282	2,028,130
Social security costs	228,697	189,146
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	89,847	74,510
Recruitment costs	10,260	14,398
Interim staffing costs	46,916	18,360
Redundancy costs	17,300	23,200
	2,822,302	2,347,744

0 employees earned between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2023: 3). 1 employee earned between £70,000 and £80,000 (2023: None). 3 employees earned between £80,000 and £90,000 (2023: 1).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel were £381,877 (2023: £366,429).

The Trustees were not paid or in receipt of any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023: £nil). No Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

The Trustees were not paid or in receipt of any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023: £nil). No Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

No trustee expenses were incurred by the charity in the year (2023: £160).

6 Staff numbers

The average number of employees based on the average headcount employed during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Fundraising	5	6
Charitable activity	65	54
Support	6	6
Governance	3	3
	79	69

7 Related party transactions

There were management charges of £116,743 relating to the Helen Bamber Foundation staff costs recharged to Asylum Aid in 2024 (2023: £80,627).

There were no donations from related parties which were outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties. The total amount of donations received in 2024 from Trustees or parties related to them was £75,000 (2023: £141,330).

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Improvement	Fixtures and fittings	ICT and medical equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
At the start of the year	113,376	34,738	107,299	255,413
Additions in year	1,044,533	29,733	56,340	1,130,606
Disposals in year	(113,376)	(28,375)	-	(141,751)
At the end of the year	1,044,533	36,096	163,639	1,244,268
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	113,376	34,308	71,692	219,376
Charge for the year	34,063	2,002	18,788	54,853
Eliminated on disposal	(113,376)	(28,375)	-	(141,751)
At the end of the year	34,063	7,935	90,480	132,478
Net book value				
At the end of the year	1,010,471	28,161	73,159	1,111,790
At the start of the year	-	430	35,607	36,037

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

The charity				
Helen Bamber Foundation	Leasehold Improvement	Fixtures and fittings	ICT and medical equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£
At the start of the year	113,376	34,738	90,508	238,622
Additions in year	1,044,533	29,733	40,302	1,114,568
Disposals in year	(113,376)	(28,375)	-	(141,751)
At the end of the year	1,044,533	36,096	130,810	1,211,439
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	113,376	34,308	68,086	215,770
Charge for the year	34,063	2,002	13,274	49,339
Eliminated on disposal	(113,376)	(28,375)	-	(141,751)
At the end of the year	34,062	7,935	81,360	123,357
Net book value				
At the end of the year	1,010,471	28,161	49,450	1,088,082
At the start of the year	-	430	22,423	22,853

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

9 Subsidiary undertaking – Asylum Aid

The charity controls the subsidiary, Asylum Aid, a company registered in England. The company number is 2513874 and charity number is 328729. The registered office address is that of the parent company. It is a subsidiary of the Helen Bamber Foundation (parent company) as the parent company board have majority control of Asylum Aid.

The subsidiary is used for the primary purpose of providing legal representation and access to justice for refugees and those seeking asylum. All activities have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the statement of financial activities.

A summary of the results of the subsidiary is shown below:

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024 £	2023 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	401,245	594,835	996,080	708,774
Charitable Activities	251,104	244,401	495,505	553,576
Other trading activities	-	124,745	124,745	117,191
Ramfel	-	38,147	38,147	57,318
Legal income	-	583,520	583,520	247,699
Other income	-	37,082	37,082	38,937
Total Income	652,349	1,622,729	2,275,078	1,723,495
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	-	69,983	69,983	46,545
Charitable Activities	684,078	900,743	1,584,821	1,156,816
Total Expenditure	684,078	970,726	1,654,804	1,203,361
Net income for the year	(31,729)	652,003	620,274	520,134
Total funds brought forward	292,746	765,343	1,058,089	537,955
Total Funds carried forward	261,017	1,417,346	1,678,363	1,058,089

Subsidiary Analysis of net assets between funds (current year)

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	23,708	-	-	23,708
Net current assets	385,051	1,066,761	261,017	1,712,828
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	-	(58,174)	-	(58,174)
Net assets at 31 December 2024	408,759	1,008,587	261,017	1,678,363

Subsidiary Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year)

	General unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	13,184	-	-	13,184
Net current assets	243,919	508,240	292,746	1,044,905
Net assets at 31 December 2024	257,103	508,240	292,746	1,058,089

10 Parent charity – Helen Bamber Foundation

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross income	3,496,175	2,053,882
Result for the year	327,728	-212,135

11 Debtors

	The group		The charity Helen Bamber Foundation	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	180,039	123,070	112,518	66,275
Amounts due from group undertakings	-	-	54,090	65,280
Prepayments & other debtors	186,171	60,125	164,364	50,077
Accrued income	182,792	85,420	165,292	75,420
	549,002	268,615	496,264	257,052

12a Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	The group		The charity Helen Bamber Foundation	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	189,293	77,290	84,998	65,256
Taxation and social security	129,249	56,940	80,944	37,837
Accruals	78,107	77,793	53,887	37,574
Deferred income (note 13)	240,283	331,514	93,403	12,903
Other creditors	84,500	65,448	-	39,500
	721,432	608,985	313,232	193,070

12b Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year

	The group		The charity Helen Bamber Foundation	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Loans	240,000	-	181,827	-
Other creditors	232,694	-	232,694	-
	472,694	-	414,521	-

13 Deferred Income

	The group		The charity Helen Bamber Foundation	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	331,514	101,228	12,903	32,167
Amount released to income in the year	(204,236)	(101,228)	(12,903)	(32,167)
Amount deferred in the year	113,005	331,514	93,403	12,903
Balance at the end of the year	240,283	331,514	93,403	12,903

14a Analysis of group net assets between funds (current year)

	General unrestricted	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	23,708	1,088,082	-	1,111,790
Net current assets	975,212	1,066,761	280,955	2,322,928
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	(240,000)	(232,694)	-	(472,694)
Net assets at 31 December 2024	758,920	1,922,148	280,955	2,962,024

14b Analysis of group net assets between funds (prior year)

	General unrestricted	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	36,037	-	36,037
Net current assets	944,496	701,856	331,633	1,977,985
Net assets at the end of the year	944,496	737,893	331,633	2,014,022

15a Movement group funds (current year)

	At 1 January 2024	Income & gains funds	Expenditure & losses	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£		£
Restricted funds:					
Legal protection	292,746	655,749	791,541	-	156,954
Therapy and casework	30,000	256,110	162,109	-	124,001
Community integration	8,888	77,735	86,623	-	-
Research, policy and dissemination	-	54,000	54,000	-	-
Counter Trafficking	-	-	-	-	-
New Premises Capital Appeal	-	910,179	371,490	(538,689)	-
General	-	63,000	63,000	-	-
Total restricted funds	331,633	2,016,773	1,528,762	(538,689)	280,955
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated fixed asset fund	22,853	40,302	13,274	(430)	49,451
Designated Casework-in-Progress	483,240	583,520	-	-	1,066,760
Designated Fund – Rent Free Period	-	-	232,694	-	(232,694)
Designated- New Premise Fund	218,616	280,897	-	539,119	1,038,632
Total designated funds	724,709	904,719	245,968	538,689	1,922,149
General funds	957,680	2,849,763	3,048,522	-	758,920
Total unrestricted funds	1,682,388	3,754,482	3,294,490	538,689	2,681,068
Total funds	2,014,022	5,771,254	4,823,254	-	2,962,024

15b Movements in group funds (prior year)

	At 1 January 2023	Income & gains	Expenditure & losses	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£		£
Restricted funds:					
Legal protection			(522,857)	-	292,746
Therapy and casework			(85,269)	-	30,000
Community integration			(72,304)	-	8,888
Research, policy and dissemination			(23,320)	-	-
Counter Trafficking			(70,297)	-	-
General			(136,096)	-	-
Total restricted funds	192,403	1,049,373	(910,143)	-	331,633
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated fixed asset fund	22,147	-	(12,917)	26,807	36,037
Designated Casework-in-Progress	235,541	247,699	-	-	483,240
Designated- New Premise Fund	325,000	-	(106,384)	-	218,616
Total designated funds	582,688	247,699	(119,301)	26,807	737,893
General funds	930,932	2,480,305	(2,439,934)	(26,807)	944,496
Total unrestricted funds	1,513,620	2,728,004	(2,559,235)	-	1,682,389
Total funds	1,706,023	3,777,377	(3,469,378)	-	2,014,022

Purposes of restricted funds

Legal protection

The restricted funds for protection work are to fund legal protection and advocacy support work; providing refugee and asylum seeking clients with a fair chance at seeking justice against the perpetrators of the interpersonal violence they experienced, international protection from the government and appropriate welfare support and housing provision. This includes legal staff salaries, client travel and interpreter costs and any other associated costs of administrating and providing legal protection and advocacy support to clients.

Therapy and casework

The restricted funds for therapy and casework are to fund our therapeutic care for survivors of gross human rights violations, helping individuals and families to overcome the psychological impact of interpersonal violence and achieve sustained recovery from acute trauma symptoms, Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other resultant mental health issues. This includes clinical staff salaries, client travel and interpreter costs and associated costs of administrating referrals for our services and providing tailored support and counselling for clients.

Community integration

The restricted funds for community integration are to assist clients to become valued members of society and combine work from different areas. Mind and body work are to fund therapies which use the mutual influence of body on mind, and mind on body to facilitate healing and recovery from trauma. The programme includes acupuncture, cranio-sacral therapy, hakomi and internal family systems, movement, pilates, yoga (including pre- and post-natal), massage, breathing training and osteopathy. The restricted funds are for clinical staff salaries, equipment, volunteer costs and client travel.

The restricted funds for social wellbeing work are to fund the Creative arts programme, which includes language and skills classes and artistic and social groups for clients of the Foundation, to break isolation and aid recovery. This includes the costs of materials, client travel, volunteer expenses and the salary of the coordinating staff member.

Research, policy and dissemination

These restricted funds are to fund work on research, policy and dissemination.

Counter Trafficking

The restricted funds for counter trafficking are to enable the foundation to fund a model of integrated care for victims of human trafficking. This includes clinical staff salaries, client travel and interpreter costs and associated costs of administering referrals for our services and providing tailored support and counselling for clients.

New Premises Capital Appeal

These restricted funds are to fund work on the new premises from which the charity will operate.

Designated Fund – Rent Free Period

This fund represents the creditor balance established by the accounting treatment of the rent free period when entering a new property. The lease incentive creditor will be met by unwinding the accounting entry that was made when the creditor was set up, no cash is paid to meet this liability. The lease incentive creditor does not reduce cash available to meet ongoing costs or to meet costs associated with emerging risks. Therefore trustees believe that including this in with general funds will artificially reduce the reserves balance reported in these accounts, so this balance has been moved to a dedicated designated fund.

Purposes of designated funds

Fixed assets fund

A designated fund has been established to represent the net book value of the charity's fixed assets.

Casework in progress fund

Value of work in progress relating to legal cases at the year-end as this is a relatively illiquid asset.

Designated Fund – Rent Free Period

This fund represents the value of the rent free period which incurred at the start of the lease. The cost of the lease is shown on a straight line basis in expenditure for the life of the lease, and this designated fund will be released on an annual basis.

New Premise fund

A designated fund was set aside in 2023 for ongoing expenditure relating to the Trauma Centre and office premises, and from 2024 represents the net book value of those assets.

16 Operating lease commitments payable as a lessee

The group's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross income	129,092	30,000
Result for the year	1,721,500	-
	1,252,000	-
	<u>3,102,592</u>	<u>30,000</u>

