

Annual Report 2021



Rights for Peace

Preventing Mass Atrocities with Human Rights



Annual Report 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rights for Peace is a human rights organisation working to prevent mass atrocity crimes in fragile states, by supporting and collaborating with local organisations.

In times of conflict or transition, human rights organisations overwhelmingly report violations and seek accountability, with little attention on preventing or mitigating patterns of violations.

A new approach is needed.



Rights for Peace
41 Whitcomb Street
London WC2H 7DT
United Kingdom

UK Registered Charity No. 1192434

To find out more, get involved in our work or donate, please visit:
www.rightsforpeace.org



| | | |
|------------------------|----|---------------------|
| | 7 | OBJECTIVES |
| OUR MISSION | 8 | |
| | 9 | STRATEGIC FOCUS |
| COUNTERING HATE CRIMES | 10 | |
| | 13 | JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS |
| WHERE WE WORK | 16 | |
| | 21 | OUR REPORTS |
| FINANCIAL REVIEW | 22 | |

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2013).

OBJECTIVES

Rights for Peace is a human rights organisation working to prevent mass atrocity crimes in fragile states, in collaboration with local organisations. Rights for Peace focuses on countering the steps that lead to genocide, starting with hate speech and discrimination. Our goals are achieved through training, research and advocacy.

Rights for Peace was established in 2018, following stocktaking of the International Criminal Court's prevention impact, noting that international justice may have a deterrent effect, but this is not a given. Conflict has re-ignited in Bunia (Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo), the location of the ICC's first cases as these arguably heightened divisions and did not address militia-controlled exploitation of resources

(see our first blog). The impetus for a new human rights organisation that focuses on prevention chimed with calls from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres around the same time, for new approaches prioritising prevention.

Rights for Peace is one of the founding members of the UK Mass Atrocity Prevention Group, whose members adopt a 'mass atrocity prevention lens' in their work, and an active member of GAAMAC (Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes). At the same time Rights for Peace is deeply committed to bottom-up approaches, collaborating with and investing in the capacity and agency of community groups and local actors pursuing long term change. Our goals are achieved through training, research and advocacy work.

Photo Credits:

Cover Image - Liz Martin (Unsplash)
 Inside Cover - Abdulaziz Mohammed (Unsplash)
 p. 13 - Liz Martin (Unsplash)
 p. 15 - Annie Spratt (Unsplash)
 p. 18/19 - Avel Chuklanov (Unsplash)
 p. 20 - Ninno Jackjir (Unsplash)
 p. 26 - Liz Martin (Unsplash)

OUR MISSION

To **prevent** mass atrocity crimes through the pursuit of justice and human rights

To **address** the drivers of mass atrocities particularly prejudiced or hate based ideology

To **strengthen** local capacities and resilience for long term prevention.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Countering **Identity Violence** through training, research and advocacy.



RESEARCH



ADVOCACY



TRAINING

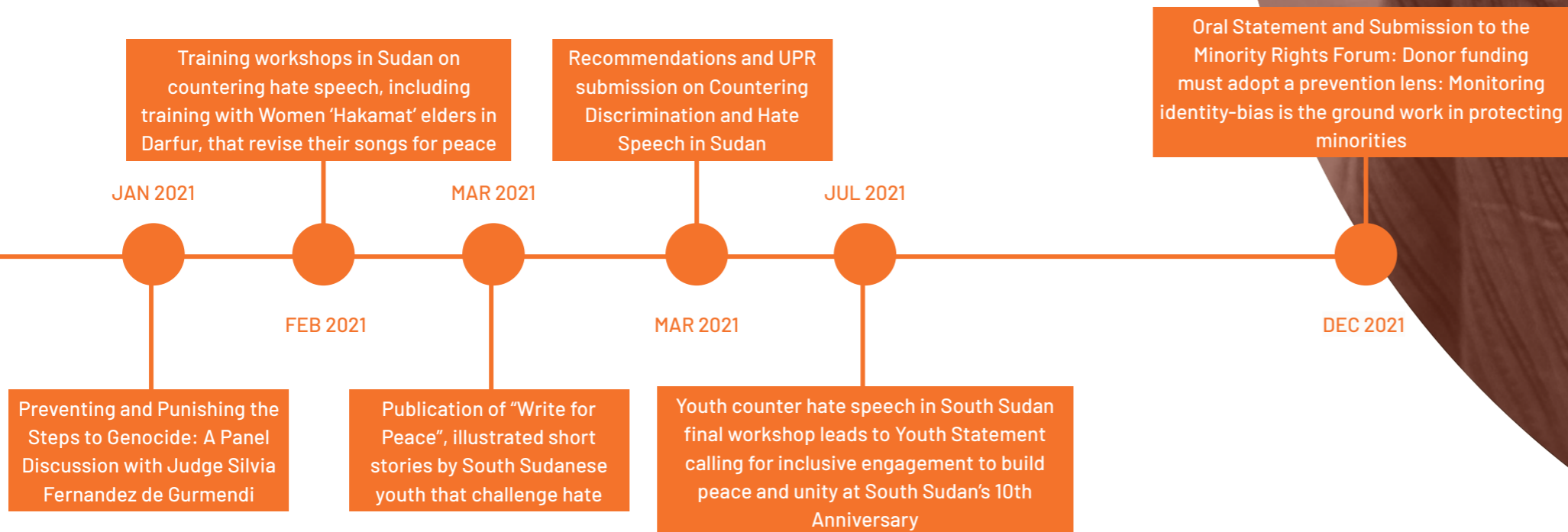
COUNTERING HATE CRIMES

WE NEED TO COUNTER THE STEPS THAT LEAD TO GENOCIDE

As we reiterated at the Minority Rights forum in 2021: “Genocide is a process, not an event. The holocaust did not start with the gas chambers, it started with hate speech” (words of Sheri Rosenberg).

Our approach to countering identity violence includes countering the steps to genocide. Our Guide to Hate Violations in International Law, launched in January

2021, provides a legal analysis of human rights violations that are based on a hate or bias motivation, starting with incitement to discrimination, hatred or hostility through to the commission of the ultimate hate crime: genocide. The virtual launch event involved a panel of speakers chaired by Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, former President of the International Criminal Court.



JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS

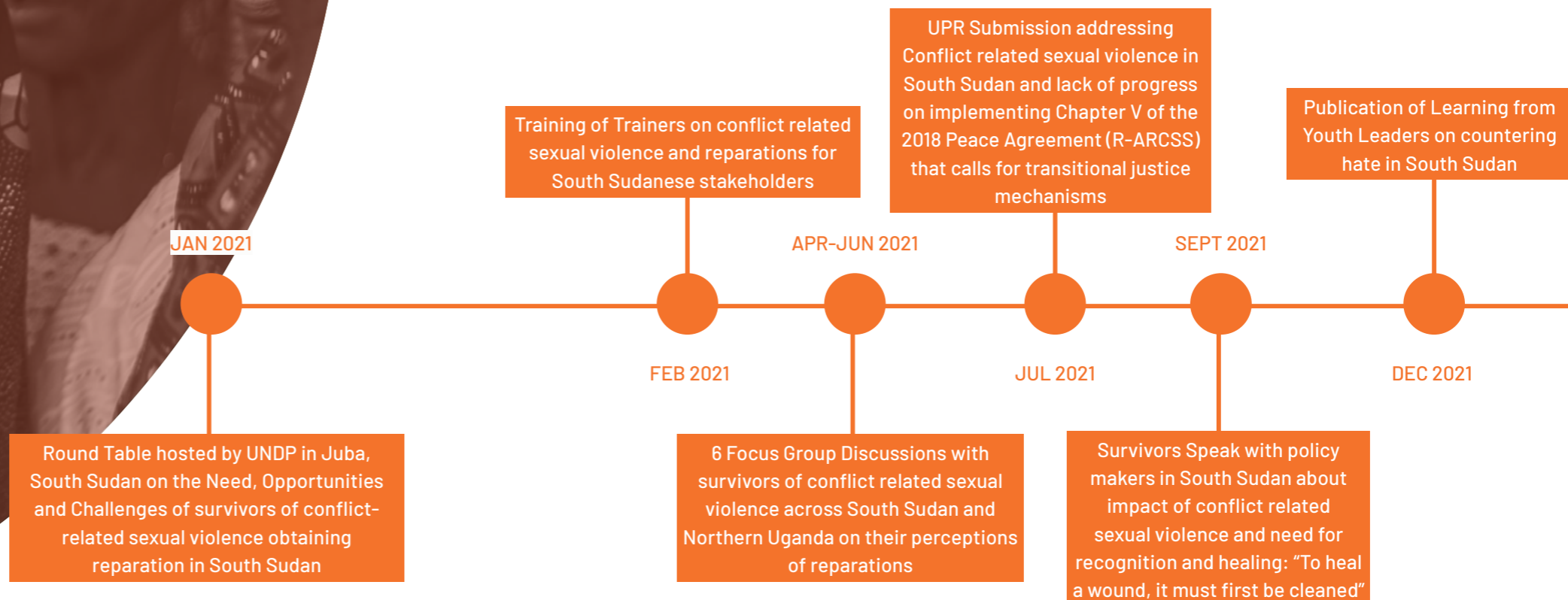


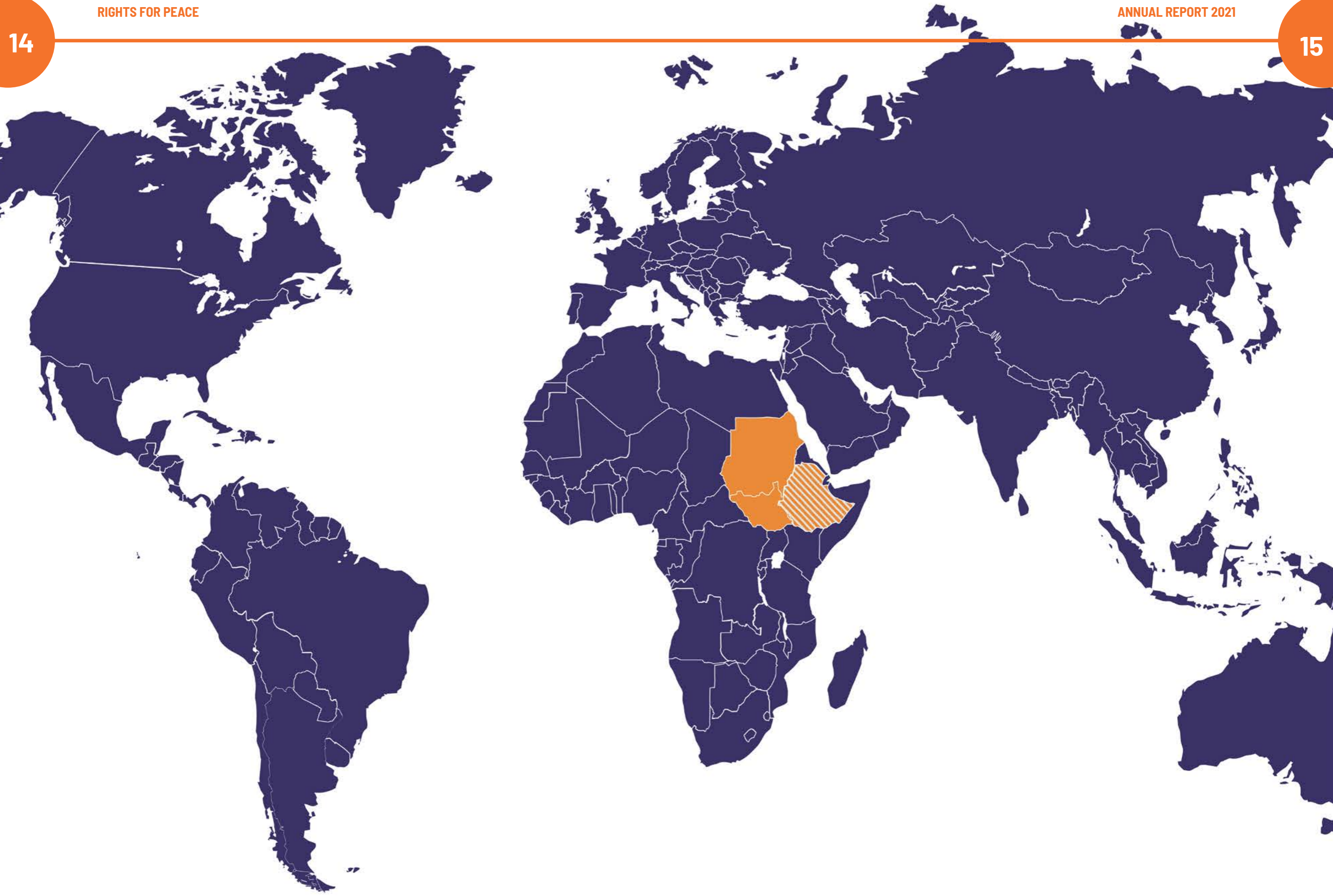
THE CULTURE OF TOLERANCE AROUND CRSV MUST END

In collaboration with a range of partners from the Transitional Justice Working Group as well as the UN Development Programme, we organised a “Survivors’ Speak” event at UNDP in Juba, South Sudan. Survivors of conflict related sexual violence from across the country as well as from refugee camps in Northern Uganda spoke out at the event. The meeting put the culture of tolerance

and impunity high up on policy agendas and has since been frequently referred to in numerous fora in South Sudan.

The concept of CRSV was not known or talked about previously, and survivors of CRSV were invisible. Both are now frequently mentioned by policy makers and influencers.





SUDAN



COUNTERING HATE SPEECH AND DISCRIMINATION PROJECT

The military takeover on 25 October 2021 implied an increased vulnerability to conflict that is coupled with existing identity-based violence in different parts of Sudan. Sudan's history of genocide has seen repeat mass atrocities, with recent explosions of violence in West Darfur in January 2021, April 2021, and in West, Central and North Darfur in November 2021.

Building on the **Network for Countering Identity Violence** initiated remotely during the pandemic, we conducted further remote trainings and consultations on hate narratives and structural discrimination, leading to the publication of *Discrimination and Hate Speech Fuel Violence in Sudan*, March 2021. The Network includes community actors from Darfur (North, East and Central), Port Sudan, Kassala and Al-Gadarif, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

The report **Discrimination and Hate Speech fuel Violence in Sudan** identifies widespread hate speech, incitement to violence and

even incitement to genocide. It provides granular understanding of how divisive and hateful narratives continue to feed into patterns of violence, based on a history of discrimination and centre-periphery subordination. Coupled with ongoing instability, there are now overlapping risk factors. Hate speech statements can be traced back to divisions to colonialism and 'Arabisation' policies of the Al-Bashir regime, such as:

- "we need to clean the State from black plastic bags", expressed by Arab elites towards ethnic black Africans,
- "the Beni Amer are a cancer that need to be cut off", heard in Eastern Sudan.

The work on training, monitoring and advocacy around hate speech in Sudan continued into a second phase that started in September 2021 (funded by a second KAICIID grant). The military coup of 25 October had a detrimental impact on

the project timeline due to internet and phone outage in Sudan for some 6 weeks. A scoping visit to Khartoum was able to take place before the coup, with follow up consultations, monitoring and research, gathering data about violence and post-coup narratives, undertaken remotely in last months of the year. Activities on the ground were able to recommence in 2022.

At the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Sudan, we made a submission in collaboration with TASAMI (Organization of Sudanese Solidarity for Elimination of Racial Discrimination), proposing concrete recommendations to the Government of Sudan in relation to Anti-Discrimination, Hate Speech & Freedom of Expression and Prevention of Mass Atrocities.

COUNTERING SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT PROJECT

We commenced research on the scale and scope of conflict related sexual violence in Sudan, including a scoping mission to prepare for field research and focus group discussions with survivors – this took place

just before the coup in October 2021. Field research was still able to start in early 2022 in spite of daily pro-democracy protests and a sudden shrinking of civic space with brutal crackdowns against activists.

ETHIOPIA



COUNTERING HATE SPEECH AND DISCRIMINATION PROJECT

The conflict in Tigray and other parts of Ethiopia is based on deep divisions. Rights for Peace has started an initial scoping review of hate narratives in different parts of the country.

SOUTH SUDAN



COUNTERING HATE SPEECH AND DISCRIMINATION PROJECT

In South Sudan we concluded our 2-year project with SSYPADO, supporting Youth Leaders to design and implement initiatives to counter identity-based violence with a final workshop in Juba, in June 2021. The booklet of counter narratives *Write for Peace*, written by South Sudanese youth, was launched, and disseminated by the Dean of Studies at Juba University in June 2021.

The report **Learning from Youth as Peace Builders**, presenting lessons on what worked, and how youth countered identity violence was published in October 2021.

Outputs included:

- Final Training for youth leaders including an evaluation of their youth initiatives funded through the DFID project to identify what worked and why, as well as lessons learned, June 2021
- Publication of Youth Declaration on 10th Anniversary of South Sudan, July 2021
- Launch of counter narratives book *Write for Peace* and Juba University, South Sudan

COUNTERING SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT PROJECT

In collaboration with Dialogue and Research Initiative (DRI), Centre for Inclusive Governance Peace and Justice (CIGPJ) and the Global Survivors' Fund (GSF), we undertook training, research and advocacy on **the status and opportunities for reparations for Survivors of Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)** in 2021. Activities included:

- Round table on Scale and Scope of Conflict Related Sexual Violence at UNDP, January 2021
- Training of Trainers on CRSV and Reparations,
- Workshops with survivors of CRSV in 6 locations across South Sudan

- Survivors Speak event, UNDP Juba, September 2021
- Fact sheet of preliminary findings on CRSV and reparations in South Sudan, launched with Global Survivors' Fund in September 2021 for the United Nations General Assembly

We also made submissions to the UN Human Rights Council UPR on South Sudan with partners Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice (CIGPJ) and Dialogue and Research Institute (DRI) in relation to the epidemic proportions of sexual and gender-based violence in South Sudan, including CRSV (July 2021).



2021 PUBLICATIONS



A Guide to Hate Violations in International Law

JANUARY 2021

Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of South Sudan

Submitted by
Rights for Peace, Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace & Justice, and Dialogue and Research Initiative
15 July 2021

For consideration at the 40th Session of the Working Group in January - February 2022

Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice is a not for profit and non-partisan national Non-Governmental Organisation founded by South Sudanese nationals to promote civic engagement and inclusivity in governing areas and accountable governance.

Dialogue and Research Initiative is a South Sudanese grassroots, human rights and advocacy organisation that promotes active citizenship and democracy as a way to ensure peaceful coexistence, equality and respect of human rights and protection through the rule of law in South Sudan.

Rights for Peace is a UK based non profit that seeks to prevent mass atrocity crimes in fragile States by collaborating with local organisations, addressing the drivers of mass atrocities - particularly prejudiced or hate based ideology, and strengthening local capacities and resilience.

JULY 2021

Write for Peace

A compilation of short stories by young South Sudanese writers

FEBRUARY 2021

Learning from Youth as Peace Builders

NOVEMBER 2021

Discrimination and Hate Speech Fuel Violence in Sudan
Full Report

March 2021

MARCH 2021

Rights for Peace Statement 14th UN Forum on Minority Issues 2021

Thank you Madame Chairperson, distinguished delegates:

Repeatedly, identity narratives are at the root of structural discrimination, injustice, human rights abuses and unresolved grievances.

From our work in Sudan and South Sudan we see that localised clashes often start as individual disputes, which then flare up along identity lines – these flare ups are exacerbated by systemic negligence, systemic discrimination or manipulation by leaders.

The lack of official uptake in resolving cases drives people to take matters into their own hands, often escalating tensions and leading to cyclical patterns of violence.

Civil society groups consistently call on their governments to take responsibility for protecting citizens and pursuing justice and accountability. Silence and lack of intervention, however, result in chronic insecurity and escalating violence.

In the context of violent conflict, identity-narratives can lead to mass atrocities: prejudice, blame, vilification and demonisation of the “other” can lead to dehumanisation, making mass persecution possible. Very often, “the other” is a minority.

We recommend that donor funding specifically prioritises this area as (to quote the Secretary General) “so few resources are reserved for prevention of violent conflict”. We are using and recommend an identity lens for monitoring and countering hate narratives and related violence. Monitoring should include:

- Collecting hate narratives and specific instances of hate speech that amount to incitement to violence or incitement to genocide;
- Monitoring identity-biased motives to human rights abuses;

DECEMBER 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Members of the management committee meet regularly to review the financial position of the charity. As a result of this information they have confidence in realistically reviewing and adjusting budgets. During the year funding continued to increase with the support of the Global Survivors Fund Partnership and other partners.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted reserves held by the charity should be at least £5,000. At this level the trustees consider that they would be able to accommodate any fundamental funding changes as core costs are minimal. As at the balance sheet date the charity's unrestricted reserves were slightly less than the policy target, at £4,694.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as both a company limited by guarantee and as a registered charity. The directors of the company serve also as the trustees of the charity. Reference and administrative details are shown in the company information page. The directors have the power to appoint additional trustees. The charity also relies on a number of volunteers and supporters.

Those involved in 2021 are:

OUR SUPPORTERS

UKAid Direct, Lush Inc., KAICIID, Morgan Lewis LLP, Interim Spaces, Global Survivor's

Fund, Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation, University of Juba, UNDP South Sudan, Google Nonprofits, LSE ProBono Matters.

VOLUNTEERS & COLLABORATORS

Najlaa Ahmed *Sudan Legal Adviser*
 Mariana Goetz *Director*
 Cara Priestley *Advocacy Officer*
 Noor Hag *Projects*
 Anita Pant *Communications Assistant*
 Amy Leigh *Communications Assistant*
 Andrew Walker *Communications Assistant*
 Mariama Sebally *Finance Assistant*
 Temelso Getahun *Ethiopia Researcher*
 Heloisa Simao *South Sudan Researcher*
 Aneasha Lewis *South Sudan Researcher*

ADVISORY BOARD

Najlaa Ahmed
 Dr. Sejal Parmar
 Dr. Lutz Oette
 Prof. Clara Sandoval-Villalba

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements The charity trustees (who are also the directors of Rights for Peace for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which 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 the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject

to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

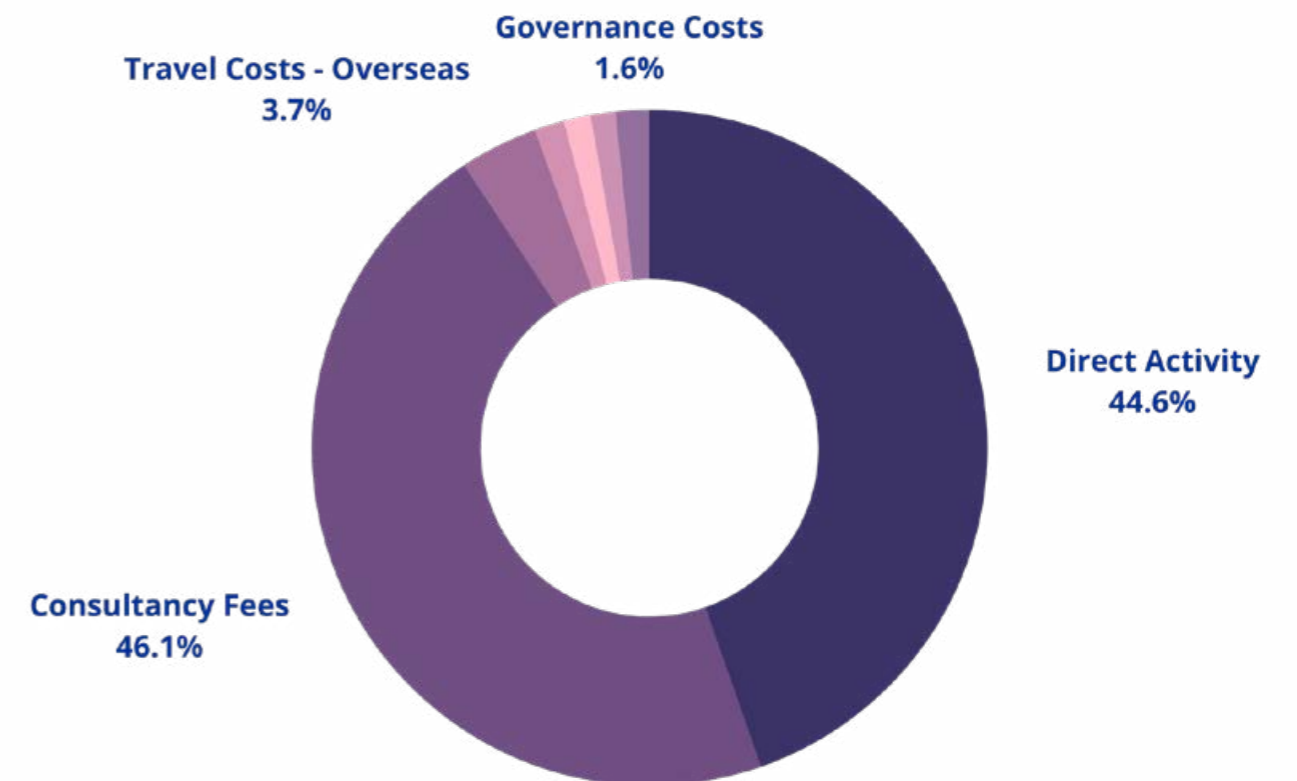
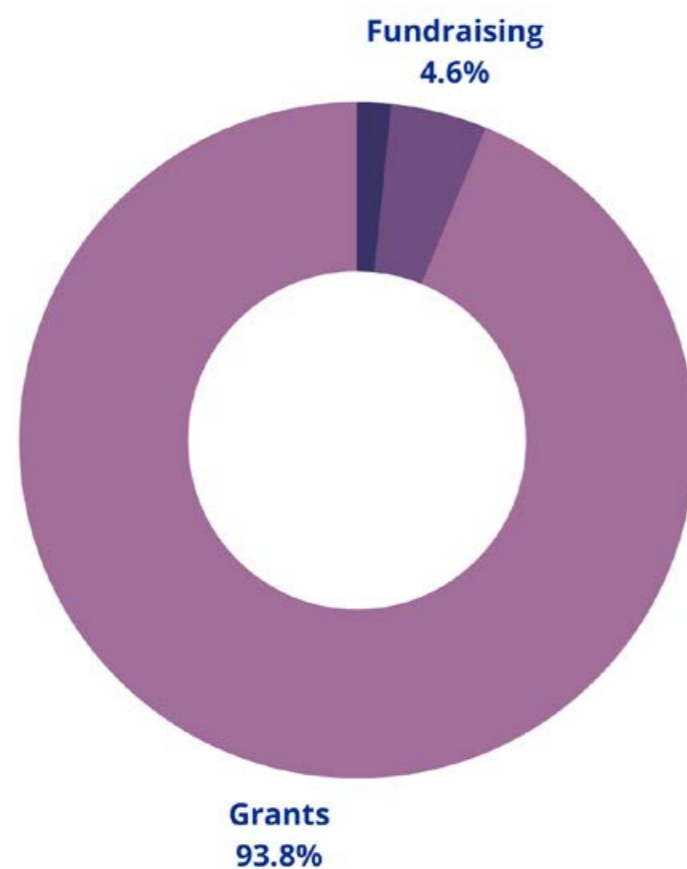
The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the charity's Independent Examiner is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information. Approval by order of the board of trustees.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

| INCOME | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------|
| Donations | £ 1599 | 1.6% |
| Fundraising | £ 4575 | 4.6% |
| Grants | £ 93056 | 93.8% |
| Total | £ 99230 | |



| EXPENSES | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Direct Activities | £ 46859 | 44.6% |
| Consultancy Fees | £ 48404 | 46.1% |
| Translation & Interpretation Costs | £ 1503 | 1.4% |
| Travel Costs - Overseas | £ 3909 | 3.7% |
| Premises Costs | £ 1360 | 1.3% |
| Office Expenses | £ 1248 | 1.2% |
| Governance Costs | £ 1688 | 1.6% |
| Total | £ 104976 | |

CHARITY INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Directors and Trustees

Katerina Armour-Bown
Mariana Goetz
Robert Mills
Dr Nieves Molina-Clemente
Julia Werdigier

Secretary

Advisory Board

Najlaa Ahmed
Dr. Sejal Parmar
Dr. Lutz Oette
Prof. Clara Sandoval-Villalba

Charity Number

1192434

Company Number

11721585

Registered Office

Interim Spaces
41 Whitcomb Street
London
WC2H 7DT

Accountants

Arian Accountants Limited
19 Sundew Close
Cardiff
CF5 2SE



Rights for Peace

Preventing Mass Atrocities with Human Rights