

Company Registration No. 01215037 (England and Wales)  
Registered charity number: 801026

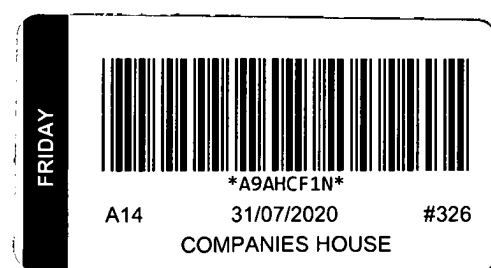
**THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**  
**(A Not For Profit Company Limited By Guarantee)**

**DIRECTORS' AND TRUSTEES' REPORT  
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**CHANTER, BROWNE & CURRY**

Chartered Accountants  
1 Plato Place  
72-74 St Dionis Road  
London SW6 4TU.



# THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

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# **THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 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) (second edition - October 2019) - (Charity SORP (FRS 102) Revised).

### **Objectives and Activities**

The charity's objects are to advance the education of the British public in the culture, art, science, religion, economy and contemporary history of the Arab world including by providing and maintaining a centre (hereafter referred to as "The Centre") for the dissemination of such information.

The charity owns and maintains a six-storey property at 1 Gough Square, off Fleet Street in central London, which houses The Centre. A number of organisations having objects similar to the The Arab British Centre are housed at The Centre, and contribute towards the costs related to the office space they occupy and the facilities they use.

The Arab British Centre has a specialised library - mainly in English - about the history, politics, arts and culture of the Arab World. The library has been compiled over many years and includes an extensive collection of Arabic fiction titles in English Translation as well as essential out of print books rarely available elsewhere. The library is a public borrowing library.

The charity organises and promotes Arab-related arts and cultural events in the UK. It hosts a regular programme of activities including Arabic language courses, Arabic calligraphy and oud music courses. The Centre houses permanent and temporary collections of contemporary art inspired by the Arab world and recognises individuals and organisations working in similar fields through its Award for Culture. In addition to the charity's regular on-site activities, it has produced a number of one-off projects in external locations and supports other organisations through its grants programme.

In planning its activities for the year, the charity's trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

### **Achievements and Performance**

In 2019, The Arab British Centre continued to build on its strategy to expand its programme reach across the United Kingdom and support Arab artists and organisations based in the UK and the Arab world. 2019 was the first year with a team of 3 full-time and one part-time staff members. The increased capacity enabled the Centre to introduce new strands of work such as international exchanges (between the UK and Kuwait), artist commissions (The Centre commissioned new work by 12 artists) and a brand new nationwide programme that explores the history, achievements and experiences of Arabs in Britain (Programme title: Arab Britain). Through its cultural programme, the centre continued its mission to disseminate arts and culture from the Arab world.

#### **January**

The Arab British Centre's programme resumed in the New Year with its regular programme of courses including Arabic language and music courses with the Taqasim Music School.

## THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### Achievements and Performance (continued)

##### February

Following the success of their participation in the International Fashion Showcase (IFS) in 2016, the Centre collaborated with Starch Foundation in Lebanon to support Lebanese ready-to-wear designer Roni Helou for their second installation at IFS. A highlight of the fashion calendar, the IFS nurtures and presents work from the most exciting fashion talent from around the world. Working in partnership over a year, British Council, British Fashion Council, London College of Fashion and Somerset House provide a tailored residency programme for 16 emerging international designers, culminating with a free public exhibition during London Fashion Week, 11-25 February 2019 at Somerset House. Themed around the concept of 'Brave New Worlds' and the changing landscape of fashion, the exhibition showcased the work developed by the designers in a compelling series of installations exploring urgent issues and new ideas that are shaping fashion globally.

Following a 10 day residency in London in 2018, Roni Helou, the sole designer representing the Arab world in the IFS, showcased an installation called 'Wasteland, Wonderland' seeking to explore attitudes and behaviours concerning recycling, waste and the garbage crisis that has plagued Lebanon.

##### International Fashion Showcase in numbers:

###### AUDIENCES

8400 Exhibition visitors  
176M Press reach across 40 countries  
315K Digital reach  
14M Social media reach

##### April

In April, the Centre launched *Making Marks*, a new project exploring the impact of international working on emerging artists.

Supported by the British Council and working in partnership with creative institutions in Kuwait and the four UK regions, *Making Marks* facilitated group visits for artists to travel to Kuwait and to the UK, offering funding for creative, community engagement programmes under the project's themes. In this first initial phase of the project, four British institutions, Hepworth Wakefield in Yorkshire (England), Fruitmarket Gallery in Edinburgh (Scotland), Mostyn in Llandudno (Wales) and Belfast Exposed in Belfast (Northern Ireland), nominated four UK artists who embarked on a weeklong residency in Kuwait. A short film documenting the artists' experiences whilst in Kuwait was commissioned by Hydar Dewachi, a British-Iraqi artist and film-maker.

The theme of the project considers the positive impact of international working and exchange, and how it can shape artists and their work. Throughout the facilitated visits (developed in collaboration with Madeenah Kuwait), artists were asked to explore transformations that can take place through the exchange of ideas and practices from one cultural environment to the next and reflect on how this marks us. The experience provided the opportunity for participating artists to explore how the UK and Kuwait's relationship shapes our societies and our image of ourselves. The programme actively challenged stereotypes of our respective cultures and highlighted the similarities, differences, and universal challenges facing emerging creatives the world over.

## THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### Achievements and Performance (continued)

On return to their home countries, the artists developed their work inspired by the visit and their connections with Kuwait and UK based artists. Artists received £1500 to cover the development of their work, including an outreach activity with their nominating institution under the theme of *Making Marks*. The outreach activity could be an exhibition, talk, workshop, publication, etc., with the aim of encouraging audiences to view the project and consider the beneficial impact of international exchange and collaboration between the UK, Kuwait and the wider Middle East.

The commissioned artists in phase 1 were:

Emii Al Rai (nominated by Hepworth Wakefield, England)

Sian Rees Astley (nominated by Mostyn, Wales)

Ben Malcomson (nominated by Belfast Exposed, Northern Ireland)

Katherine Midgley (nominated by Fruitmarket Gallery, Scotland)

Below are selected quotes by the artists collected from the survey forms:

Artist 1: *'From the trip, I further want to know more about the rich culture the Middle East has to offer, travelling to Kuwait has ignited a spark for me to experience other similar Arab countries. (...) Travelling has allowed me to self-reflect on who I am and what it is meant by identity and where ideas are formed, this has advanced my practice and will continue to do so in the coming years.'*

Artist 2: *'I really loved the excitement there, and the sense that people were finding ways round the 'red lines' they encountered in their practices. Really inspiring! (...) it was the opportunity of a lifetime! I am so excited for the second phase of the project, which is giving me the chance to gain exactly the experience I need to pursue a curatorial career.'*

#### June

In June, the Centre took part for the first time in the London Festival of Architecture, the world's largest annual architectural festival. The series of events were developed in partnership with one of the Arab British Centre's resident organisations The Barakat Trust, under the theme *In Search of Arab London*.

The first event was a site visit led by Amin Taha, architect and founder of Amin Taha Groupwork + Studio, at the award-winning 15 Clerkenwell Close. The six-storey stone framed building block located in a historic area of London contains 8 flats as well as the offices of Taha's architectural practice, which received a demolition order by Islington Council. The visit was attended by 36 people.

The second event (held at the Centre), was a design conversation with architects and interior designers May Fawzi (MF Design Studio), Randa Hanna (AA DIP RIBA) and Hedayat Islam (Jam Space UK) who shared their personal experiences of melding design and architectural ideas between the Middle East and Britain. This event was attended by 26 people.

The final event was a workshop for young learners facilitated by Alia Al Zougbi and held at Leighton House. The workshop explored the notion of home through a short film, 'The Damascene Home', about the traditional residential architecture of Damascus. The workshop continued with a tour of Leighton House's Arab Hall and a drawing session using architectural plans of a traditional Damascene house. This event was attended by 12 children aged between 6-12 yrs old.

#### August

In August, four Kuwait-based artists made their way to the UK on a 6-day tour of Northern Ireland, England and Wales as part of the second phase of the *Making Marks* project. The journey included visits to galleries, museums, cultural spaces and artists' studios. The four commissioned artists were nominated by Loyac and Madeenah and were joined by Dalal Al Nafisi who founded and runs Manifesto 13 in Kuwait, one of the main partners in this project. A second short film documenting the artists' experiences was also produced by Hydar Dewachi.

## THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### Achievements and Performance (continued)

The four nominated artists were:

Faye Al Mansour  
Sarah Ismail Al Sayed  
Sheikha Al Habshi  
Stanishlas Kumar

Below are selected quotes by the Kuwaiti artists collected from the survey forms:

*Artist 1: Every day in the trip I was gaining new information about the UK. I was mostly surprised about the politics and history of Belfast, the peace wall. It's definitely something that I have never learned in school or saw on the tv. The trip exceeded my expectations I got so much more out of it than what I thought. I learned a lot especially since I've never been in those areas! Another highlight was the rich history of Wales.*

*Artist 2: The confidence gained is something immeasurable, being able to feel supported and creatively fulfilled was something I took away from the trip.*

The Arab British Centre surveyed each of the artists taking part in the *Making Marks* programme both before and after their trips to Kuwait or the UK. The survey questions focused on qualitative and quantitative questions measuring changes in knowledge, views, and confidence in international working, by rating these metrics out of 100.

There were increases in specific country and general knowledge after the trips across both groups of artists, with average increases of 21 and 22 (respectively) points out of 100 in the Kuwait artist group, and an increase of 31 and 27 points in the UK artist group. In the section of the surveys on 'current views of the Arab world/the UK', before the trips, the Kuwait artists' view of the UK was very high (average of 85, with 0 being negative and 100 positive) and the UK artists on the Arab world much lower (average of 54). After the trip, the UK artists' view increased to an average of 86, and the Kuwait artists lowered to 71. This could be seen as a result of the positive and negative stereotypes of both the UK and the Arab world at play across different parts of the globe, and how these affect perceptions, particularly when someone has no or little first-hand experience of the place they are visiting. This is a particularly interesting result of the trip, as it implies that through knowledge and experiential learning, we are required to report that fa

Following their journey to Kuwait, two artists successfully delivered workshops as part of their commissioned work. Katherine Midgley ran *Making Space* that took place in the Southside of Glasgow over the summer of 2019, and centred on a series of artist-led workshops for women and non-binary people to discuss politics together. Over 140 participants took part in the workshops.

Sian Rees Astley lead two workshops in October 2019 demonstrating the gilding process used in her commissioned series of sculptures made out of clay, embellished with Al-Sadu symbols, an ancient and traditional technique used by weavers in Kuwait added to UNESCO's list of "intangible heritage".

The other six commissioned artists will be delivering their work in early 2020 with their nominating institutions. A group exhibition with all eight artists is planned to take place in Kuwait in late 2020.

#### September

In September, the Centre returned to City Hall to celebrate the seventh edition of the *Arab British Centre Award for Culture*, a biennial prize that celebrates those who have significantly contributed to the dissemination of Arab arts and culture and furthered dialogue and understanding of the Arab world in the United Kingdom. The prize was established in 2008 for the purpose of raising awareness of contemporary Arab culture in the UK and to give financial support to individuals and organisations at a crucial stage of their career.

## THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### Achievements and Performance (continued)

A bespoke trophy as well as a cash prize of £2500 and a British Council travel grant of £1500 was awarded to the winner of each category during the Award Ceremony reception, attended by 250 guests. A further British Council travel grant of £1000 was awarded to a runner up in each category. The Award for Culture was supported by the British Council and Council for Arab Ambassadors.

The 2019 winners included:

**Individuals:** Nadine Kaadan (children's book author and illustrator)

**Organisations:** MARS M (music and events production company)

Runners-up included visual artist Omeima Mudawi-Rowlings and Sarha Collective.

A distinguished panel of judges for Award for Culture 2019 included:

- Sir Derek Plumbly KCMG, Chairman of The Arab British Centre
- Venetia Porter, British Museum Curator of Islamic and Contemporary Art
- Lynn Gaspard, Publisher at Saqi Books
- Imogen Ware, cultural consultant and former Managing Director of Crossway Foundation
- Karl Sharro, architect, satirist and Middle East commentator
- Rebecca Gould, Head of Arts, British Council Wales

During the Award ceremony, the Centre announced the launch of their long-term programme called *Arab Britain*, that sets out to explore the history, achievements and experiences of Arabs in Britain, to retrace the ways the Arab world has influenced and shaped British culture and society and to celebrate the contributions of Arabs in Britain, past and present. The programme will include various projects such as exhibitions, talks and an oral history project.

#### October

In October, the centre hosted an event exploring new trends in genre writing in contemporary Arabic fictions, in partnership with Comma Press. Guests included Talal Abu Shawish (by phone), a Gaza-based author best known for his literary realism who recently turned to science fiction in his contribution to *Palestine + 100* (Comma, 2019) and Eman Abdelrahim, an Egyptian TV scriptwriter and author of the short story collection *Rooms* (Kotob Khan), which won the 2015 Sawiris Cultural Prize. Eman and Comma Press editor Ra Page were in conversation and then took questions from an audience of about 35 people.

#### November

In November the Centre launched its first project as part of Arab Britain in collaboration with Dr Johnson's House, neighbouring organisation based in Gough Square in the City of London. The project London's Theatre of The East, invited artists, researchers and the public to (re)examine the historical connections of the Middle East and North Africa and London, via the lens of Dr Johnson's 1749 play *Irene*, set during the fall of Constantinople.

## THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### Achievements and Performance (continued)

Following the launch of an open call, four artists, designers and writers – Nour Hage, Hannah Khalil, Lena Naassana and Saeida Rouass – were commissioned to respond to the historical context and content of the play, with the support of academic advisors including Professor Jerry Brotton, author of *This Orient Isle*. The artists examined the period and influential encounters between London and the region from the 16th century onward, when Queen Elizabeth I first started trading with Muslim nations. Their responses were showcased in an exhibit at Dr Johnson's House which was accompanied by a series of public activities including performances and workshops. Over 3,500 attended the exhibition and programme of events, which included:

- free open days in the presence of the artists
- a dramatic reading of *Irene* performed by the students from the English and Drama department of Queen Mary University of London, under the direction of Dr Penelope Woods, Lecturer in Drama
- an artist talk with Saeida Rouass, Lena Naassana and Nour Hage, joined by academic advisors Professor Jerry Brotton and the Donald Hyde Curator of Dr Johnson's House, Celine Lupp McDaid
- Women Writing Back, an event featuring London's Theatre of The East contributors, author Saeida Rouass and playwright Hannah Khalil, and Professor Ros Ballaster, academic advisor on the London's Theatre of The East project and specialist in women's writing from the University of Oxford.

The exhibition ran until 14 February 2020 and was supported by the City of London Corporation. London's Theatre of The East is part of the *Arab Britain* programme.

The Centre ran its series of courses, including Arabic language, Kufic script, Islamic Art and Architecture, as well as Oud and Darbuka with the Taqasim Music School. Overall, the courses were attended by 305 students.

The Arab British Centre continues to house like-minded resident organisations by providing affordable serviced offices within its premises. In 2019 the Arab British Centre supported the following organisations and individuals; The Council for Arab British Understanding (CAABU), The Centre for Transnational Development and Collaboration (CTDC), The Friends of Edward Said Foundation (Pal Music), Shubbak Festival, Zaytoun, The Barakat Trust and Iraqi filmmaker Ashtar Al Khirsan. The Centre also hosts the following associate residents and supports them by providing a postal address and meeting room access; Arts Cabinet, BANIPAL Magazine, Friends of Birzeit University, NAABA UK, the Saudi British Society, The British Tunisian Society, Open Bethlehem and The Arab Puppet Theatre Foundation.



# THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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### Financial Review

The attached financial statements summarise the charity's transactions for the year ended 31 December 2019. Total funds for the year show an excess of expenditure over income of £78,364. Adding the gain on the revaluation of investments of £170,078 resulting in a net surplus for the year of £91,714. Total funds at 31 December 2019 amounted to £2,648,172, comprising £19,596 unrestricted income funds, and £2,628,576 endowment funds.

### Principal funding sources

The charity's principal sources of funding are:-

- (1) Charges for classes run by the charity;
- (2) Contributions from resident organisations to the running costs of the Arab British Centre;
- (3) Sponsorship and donations;
- (4) Income from endowment funds and bank balances, including bank interest, dividends and interest on investments;
- (5) Capital growth in investments.

### Investment policy

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit. The trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds. The charity has investments with Investec Wealth & Investment. The remainder of the charity's funds are held on bank deposit. The performance of the investments during the year has been satisfactory.

### Reserves policy

The trustees have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

The expendable endowment fund is a restricted capital fund which is held to ensure the long-term survival of the charity, with the Centre as a physical hub for those working to promote understanding of the Arab world and its culture.

Transfers from expendable endowment fund are made to income funds at the discretion of the trustees. The trustees aim only to make transfers to income funds sufficient to cover the running costs of the Centre for the forthcoming quarter.

The charity is hoping to continue to build on its success in increasing the range of events and other activities with which it is involved. The charity's policy is to organise events and activities which meet the following criteria:-

- 1) Their direct costs are fully or substantially paid for out of sponsorship, donations or receipts; and
- 2) A risk assessment is carried out to ensure that any anticipated deficit on the event or activity is fully affordable out of the income fund.

### Plans for future periods

The charity has adapted well to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. It has continued running its music and language courses on-line. It has also been able to continue many of its other activities, including preparing for the SAFAR 2020 film festival, which is due to take place on-line in September 2020.

The Board is constantly monitoring the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and is taking appropriate steps to mitigate the effect on the charity's activities going forward.

When the Covid-19 pandemic passes, the trustees hope to continue to increase the number of lectures, talks, art displays and artistic performances that the charity will organise.

# THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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### Reference and administrative details

Registered charity number	801026
Company number	1215037
Registered office and principal place of business	1 Gough Square London EC4A 3DE.

### Our advisers

Auditors	Chanter, Browne & Curry Chartered Accountants 1 Plato Place 72-74 St Dionis Road London SW6 4TU.
Bankers	Santander Business Banking Centre Clarence House, Clarence Place Newport, Gwent NP19 7UP.
Solicitors	Russell-Cooke LLP 2 Putney Hill London SW15 6AB.
Investment fund managers	Investec Wealth & Investment Limited

### Directors and trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Sir Derek Plumbly KCMG (Chairman)  
Mr Maytham Akbar (resigned 31 May 2019)  
Mr Brian Constant C.B.E. (retired January 2020)  
Ms Laila El Baradei (resigned January 2020)  
Mr Saeed Taji Farouky  
Ms Randa Adel Ashmawi  
Mr Haroun Al-Mishwit  
Mrs Elizabeth Moriarty  
Mr Maher Maksoud (appointed 7 March 2019)  
Ms Fionnuala Rogers (appointed 1 June 2020)

**Company Secretary**  
Mrs Nadia El-Sebai

## **THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

##### **Governing document**

The Arab British Centre is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 5 June 1975 and registered as a charity on 17 February 1989. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. By a written resolution dated 28 June 2011, the trustees adopted new Articles of Association in order to reflect current legislation including the Companies Act 2006. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

##### **Recruitment and appointment of the Council**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Council. Under the requirements of the Articles of Association, the first board meeting of each calendar year shall be known as the retirement board meeting. At the third retirement board meeting since their last appointment, a trustee shall retire. They shall be eligible for re-appointment if they have served less than six years in office. A trustee who has served six or more years in office at the relevant retirement board meeting must retire and cannot be re-appointed until they have had a period of at least two years out of office, unless on the recommendation of the majority of the board the trustee is re-appointed for one further consecutive term of duration to be determined by the trustees.

Unless otherwise determined by a General Meeting, the number of the members of the Council shall not be less than five nor more than twelve. Currently the only members of the charity are the members of the Council.

The Council seeks to ensure that only persons with an interest and knowledge of the Arab world are appointed as trustees. Extensive measures are in place to ensure that only trustworthy persons are appointed. These include taking up references and carrying out due diligence checks.

##### **Trustee induction**

The trustees receive documents relating to the rules and obligations of trustees as set out by the Charity Commission.

##### **Organisational structure**

The Arab British Centre has a Council of between 5 and 12 members who meet six times per year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. At present the Council has six members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

##### **Risk management**

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis, especially now that the charity is seeking to expand its range of activities. The trustees believe that by ensuring that the investment funds are restricted to expenditure on the charity's core function of operating and maintaining The Centre, in line with the wishes of the original fund donors, adequate resources will be available to secure the charity's long term survival.

The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

## **THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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#### **Responsibilities of the Council**

Company law requires the Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Council have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Council must not approve the financial statements unless the trustees are satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the charity and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Council are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards 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 Council is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which 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.

The Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

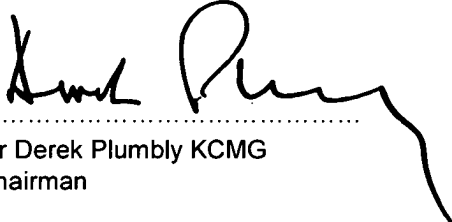
#### **Auditors**

A resolution proposing that Chanter, Browne & Curry be re-appointed as the charity's auditors, will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

#### **Statement of Disclosure of Information to Auditors**

As far as each of the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the board of directors and trustees on 8 July 2020 and is signed on its behalf.



.....  
Sir Derek Plumbly KCMG  
Chairman

# THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Arab British Centre ("the charitable company") for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards for Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the 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 the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 17 to the financial statements, 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 director's 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 the charitable company'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 directors 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 annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the 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 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 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.

## THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

### REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE (CONTINUED)

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#### **Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' 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 company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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 trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement "Responsibilities of the Council" set out on page 10, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for 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 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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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 a Report of the Auditors 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

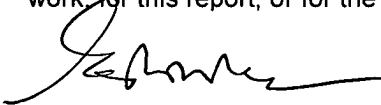
## THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

### REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE (CONTINUED)

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#### 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. 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 auditors' 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.



.....  
Peter Browne (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Chanter, Browne & Curry  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor

8 July 2020

1 Plato Place  
72-74 St Dionis Road  
London  
SW6 4TU.

**THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	Notes	Unrestricted income funds £	2019 Endowment funds £	Total funds £	2018 Total funds £
<b>Income</b>	1.3				
Donations	3	89,729	-	89,729	5,960
Charitable activities	4	123,909	-	123,909	139,253
Investments	5	90	30,909	30,999	30,766
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>213,728</b>	<b>30,909</b>	<b>244,637</b>	<b>175,979</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	1.4				
<b>Raising funds</b>					
Investment management costs	6	-	17,416	17,416	17,969
<b>Charitable activities</b>	6	<b>370,745</b>	<b>6,443</b>	<b>377,188</b>	<b>286,518</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>370,745</b>	<b>23,859</b>	<b>394,604</b>	<b>304,487</b>
Gains/(losses) on sale of investments		-	71,603	71,603	89,530
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(157,017)</b>	<b>78,653</b>	<b>(78,364)</b>	<b>(38,978)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
Gross transfers between funds	8	150,000	(150,000)	-	-
		(7,017)	(71,347)	(78,364)	(38,978)
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments	10	-	170,078	170,078	(208,558)
Net movement in funds for the year		(7,017)	98,731	91,714	(247,536)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		26,613	2,529,845	2,556,458	2,803,994
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>19,596</b>	<b>2,628,576</b>	<b>2,648,172</b>	<b>2,556,458</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.



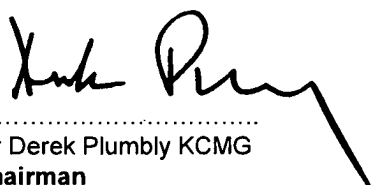
THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

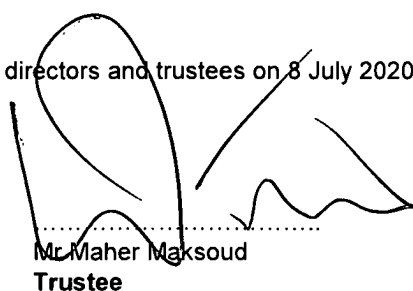
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	Notes	Income funds £	2019 Endowment funds £	Total funds £	2018 Total funds £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	9	66	864,911	864,977	872,868
Investments	10	30,000	1,743,781	1,773,781	1,587,968
		<u>30,066</u>	<u>2,608,692</u>	<u>2,638,758</u>	<u>2,460,836</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	11	5,974	-	5,974	21,566
Cash at bank and in hand		16,579	19,884	36,463	98,614
		<u>22,553</u>	<u>19,884</u>	<u>42,437</u>	<u>120,180</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	33,023	-	33,023	24,558
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>(10,470)</u>	<u>19,884</u>	<u>9,414</u>	<u>95,622</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>19,596</u>	<u>2,628,576</u>	<u>2,648,172</u>	<u>2,556,458</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>					
Endowment funds	14, 15			2,628,576	2,529,845
Unrestricted income funds	14, 15			19,596	26,613
<b>Total charity funds</b>				<u>2,648,172</u>	<u>2,556,458</u>

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

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and trustees on 8 July 2020.

  
.....  
Sir Derek Plumbly KCMG  
Chairman

  
.....  
Mr Maher Maksoud  
Trustee

**Company Registration Number: 01215037**

## THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

---

#### 1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year, except where noted.

##### 1.1 Basis of accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of listed investments.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no material uncertainties affecting the current year's accounts.

##### 1.2 Fund accounting

The company has two separate funds:-

(1) An expendable endowment. Transfers to income funds can be made at the discretion of the trustees.

(2) General unrestricted income fund available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

##### 1.3 Incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when:-

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations are recorded as income in the accounting period in which they are received, except where the donor specifies that they should be used for a specific period.

Investment income is included in the financial statements when receivable.

##### 1.4 Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Costs of generating funds comprise the investment funds management charges.

Governance costs represents auditors' remuneration.

All other expenditure is included under charitable expenditure. It comprises the cost of operating The Centre.

## THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### 1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over the expected useful lives, as follows:-

Freehold building	- 100 years
Fixtures and fittings	- 5 years
Computers	- 3 years

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.

#### 1.6 Investments

Fixed asset investments are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date and the gain or loss on revaluation is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### 1.7 Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered.

#### 1.8 Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

#### 2 Legal status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

**THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**3 Donations received**

	<b>2019</b>			<b>2018</b>
	<b>Income funds</b>	<b>Endowment funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations received	89,729	-	89,729	5,960

**4 Income from charitable activities**

	<b>2019</b>			<b>2018</b>
	<b>Income funds</b>	<b>Endowment funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Contributions from users	73,358	-	73,358	67,776
Income from Arabic calligraphy classes	3,300	-	3,300	2,610
Income from Arabic classes	15,663	-	15,663	14,055
Income from music classes	26,597	-	26,597	24,539
Income from Islamic Art and Architecture classes	3,200	-	3,200	3,200
Income from events and functions	820	-	820	26,368
Hire of boardroom	911	-	911	450
Library memberships	60	-	60	255
	<u>123,909</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>123,909</u>	<u>139,253</u>

A number of organisations with similar objects to the charity, occupy the majority of the charity's property, and their presence is financially underwritten by the charity. The organisations contribute towards the costs related to the office space and facilities which they use.

**5 Investment income**

	<b>2019</b>			<b>2018</b>
	<b>Income funds</b>	<b>Endowment funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank interest received	90	-	90	84
Dividends received from listed investments:-				
- UK investments	-	24,887	24,887	26,062
- overseas investments	-	5,693	5,693	4,567
Interest received from UK listed investments	-	329	329	53
	<u>90</u>	<u>30,909</u>	<u>30,999</u>	<u>30,766</u>

**THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**6 Expenditure on charitable activities**

	<b>2019</b>		<b>2018</b>
	<b>Income funds £</b>	<b>Endowment funds £</b>	<b>Total funds £</b>
<b>Costs of raising funds</b>			
Investment management costs	-	17,416	17,416
			17,969
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Cost of operation of the Centre:-			
Depreciation	1,332	6,443	7,775
Repairs and maintenance	22,797	-	22,797
Staff costs:-			
- gross wages and salaries	125,008	-	125,008
- employers' NICs	9,517	-	9,517
- pension contributions	7,500	-	7,500
Office and other costs	83,224	-	83,224
Sponsorship grants	-	-	-
Events, festivals and functions	116,387	-	116,387
	365,765	6,443	372,208
			281,778
<b>Governance costs</b>			
Auditors' remuneration	4,980	-	4,980
	370,745	6,443	377,188
			286,518

No trustees received any remuneration. No trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the year.

No employee was paid more than £60,000 in the year. The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2018: 3).

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension contributions charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund.

The company occasionally makes modest grants to a number of arts and cultural projects delivered in the United Kingdom with the aim of improving the British public's understanding of the Arab world.

**7 Taxation**

As a charity, The Arab British Centre is exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the two years ended 31 December 2019.

**THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**8 Transfers between funds**

	Unrestricted income funds £	2019 Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Net transfers from investment funds to cover costs of operation of The Centre	150,000	(150,000)	-

**9 Tangible fixed assets**

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 January 2019	1,288,633	11,983	9,030	1,309,646
Additions	-	(116)	-	(116)
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2019	1,288,633	11,867	9,030	1,309,530
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2019	417,279	10,469	9,030	436,778
On disposals	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	6,443	1,332	-	7,775
At 31 December 2019	423,722	11,801	9,030	444,553
<b>Net book values</b>				
At 31 December 2019	864,911	66	-	864,977
At 31 December 2018	871,354	1,514	-	872,868

The trustees have reviewed the value of the freehold land and buildings. They are of the opinion that the market value at 31 December 2019 was not less than the net book value shown above.

**THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**10 Fixed asset investments**

<b>Investec Wealth &amp; Investment</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 January 2019	1,587,968
Additions at cost	694,248
Disposals at cost	(678,513)
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	170,078
At 31 December 2019 (cost = £1,401,712)	<u>1,773,781</u>

**Total investments**

	<b>Total £</b>
Total value of investments at 31 December 2019	1,793,665
Less: cash at brokers (included under current assets)	19,884
Fixed asset investments at 31 December 2019	<u>1,773,781</u>

The above investments are held to provide an investment return for the charity.

UK assets comprise approximately 57% of the value of the fixed asset investments as at 31 December 2019.

**11 Debtors**

	<b>2019 £</b>	<b>2018 £</b>
Contributions receivable	<u>5,974</u>	<u>21,566</u>

**THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

<b>12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Taxation and social security	3,550	3,050
Accruals	5,765	4,920
Deferred income (see note 13)	9,725	2,701
Other creditors	13,983	13,887
	<u>33,023</u>	<u>24,558</u>

**13 Deferred income**

Deferred income comprises contributions from users received in advance.

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance at 1 January 2019	2,701	-
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(2,701)	-
Amount deferred in year	9,725	2,701
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>9,725</u>	<u>2,701</u>

**14 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	<b>Income funds</b>	<b>Expendable endowment funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Tangible fixed assets	30,066	834,911	864,977
Investments	-	1,773,781	1,773,781
Current assets	22,553	19,884	42,437
Current liabilities	(33,023)	-	(33,023)
Net assets at 31 December 2019	<u>19,596</u>	<u>2,628,576</u>	<u>2,648,172</u>

**15 Movement in funds**

	<b>Income funds</b>	<b>Expendable endowment funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance at 1 January 2019	26,613	2,529,845	2,556,458
Incoming resources	213,728	30,909	244,637
Resources expended	(370,745)	(23,859)	(394,604)
Gains/(losses) on sale of investments	-	71,603	71,603
Transfers	150,000	(150,000)	-
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments	-	170,078	170,078
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>19,596</u>	<u>2,628,576</u>	<u>2,648,172</u>



**THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**16 Related party disclosures**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2019.

**17 Auditors' ethical standards**

In common with many companies of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.