REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: SC044852

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

for

Development Studies Association

Sterling Partners Limited
Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisors
2nd Floor, Grove House
774-780 Wilmslow Road
Didsbury
Manchester
Greater Manchester
M20 2DR

Development Studies Association

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for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

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Development Studies Association

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2026.

The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Development Studies Association

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association are to promote and advance international development as a field of study, research and action, with a mission to deepen understanding of how global poverty and inequalities are produced, sustained and may be overcome, and how a better future may be advanced.

VISION

In taking forward its mission and vision, the DSA is committed to:

1. Advance connections between people that will extend and deepen understanding of development issues

2 .Raising the profile of the UK development studies community and provide a platform for its collective voice

3. Build the institutional strength of the DSA

4. Nurturing the future of development studies in the UK through support to students, early career researchers and Higher Education teachers

5. Promote greater inclusiveness, diversity and equity within the development studies community

ACTIVITIES

In pursuit of these objectives, the DSA has achieved the following during the Financial Year 2025-2026:

1. Annual Conference

The 2025 Annual Conference was held as a hybrid event, offering both in-person and online attendance. It was organised and hosted by the University of Bath, 25-27th June 2025. Key statistics being Participants: 625; Papers/presentations: 420; Plenaries: 3; Panels, Roundtables and Workshops: 73.

Planning for the next annual conference began in July 2025 and it was agreed, further to positive evaluation results, that a three-day event would be hosted by University College Dublin in early July 2026 once again in a hybrid format. The format worked well in 2025 with ~62% of delegates attending in-person and the remainder online. The hybrid format continues to enable high levels of inclusion amongst global South colleagues and reduces the event's carbon footprint.

2. Communications

The DSA Communications Officer, Rowena Harding, continues to work effectively and diligently in the role and once again has expanded and heightened DSA Communications via the website, social media and the DSA monthly newsletter with greater followers and traffic in all of these sectors. The CO continues to coordinate with the Communications sub-committee on Council to ensure DSA communicates its activities and priorities in a variety of formats. The CO organised and curated further DSA webinars and has ensured better communication co-ordination between the DSA and its institutional, individual and student members.

3. DSA Newsletter

The DSA Newsletter is emailed out monthly to ~3000 individuals, offering an important service to members and the sector as a whole. It allows members to publicise events, publications, jobs and other news of interest to the sector. It is compiled by the Communications Officer from contributions from members and continues to attract interest as a means to reach the development sector worldwide.

4. Study Groups

Study Group activity remained strong in 2025, with all (except for four) groups active . These four groups have new convenors and have begun planning their activities for 2026. Study groups either held their own events during the year or convened a panel and/or meetings at the annual DSA conference. The following activities have been undertaken:

Politics and Political Economy Study Group held a three-day workshop in Dec 2025, funded by DSA + EADI. The event 'Is Development still possible' was attended by 60 participants. They also held a DSA/EADI Politics and Political Economy PhD Research group event on '(Re)-establishing political economy in development studies' and organised panels at the International Initiative for Promotion of Political Economy Conference in Ankara in September 2025 (2 panels on Industrial Development). No meeting of the SG took place at DSA2025.

Urbanisation and Development Study Group organised a meeting and a panel at DSA2025. Convenors are exploring whether to recruit 1 or 2 other study group convenors, who can help them to take forward additional activities in 2026.

Digital Technologies, Data and Development Study Group organised a DSA2025 panel.

NGOs in Development Study Group organised a meeting at DSA2025 and a panel - P40: 'Third sector's responses to wars and conflict: solidarity, antiracism and decolonisation'. They also organised a panel at GDI Students for Palestine conference, Oct 2025. The SG have been featured in Natil's edited volume Civil Society and Local Ownership in the Global South: Responses to Conflict and Militarism.

DSA Scotland held a one-day workshop in Glasgow, Sep 2025, with funding from DSA.

Religions & Development Study Group organised a DSA2025 roundtable workshop R10: 'Arts-based methods for religions and development research'.

Political Economy of Land, Labour and Food Study Group continued their webinar series throughout the year. One convenor, Mihika, was co-convenor of the DSA2025 conference at Bath.

Gender and Development Study Group co-organised the Gender Conference at the School of Global Development, UEA in June 2025 with support from the DSA.

Multidimensional Poverty and Poverty Dynamics held a hybrid meeting and organised a panel at DSA2025.

The Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Study Group held a meeting and organised a panel at DSA2025, they are currently working on an edited book out of this.

Rising Powers, Global South, Business and Development and Decolonising Development Study Groups recruited new convenors during 2025 and so did not have activity but are formulating plans for 2026.

5. Students

At financial year-end student member numbers increased again over the year to 289 (23% of total membership) – this is the highest total number of student members in the past 10 years.

The two student reps on Council have continued to liaise with the selected student/ ECR reps from several of the DSA institutional members (IM reps). They have held regular online meetings to discuss how most students could benefit from the DSA and to plan events for students. They have an active mailing list among these reps for better communications. They have also engaged with some DSA Study Groups to showcase their work to ECRs and student members. The CO assists with student communication via the website, a new LinkedIn group and the Student Reps email list.

Prior to the annual conference, a group including the Council student reps and some IM student reps organised and held a policy impact workshop with significant assistance from the DSA CO. This was well attended and they plan to create similar events in future years. There was also a DSA students' meeting at the annual conference for the new student reps to meet in person and student members to find out more about the DSA. There was also, once again, a well-attended Publication Strategies briefing for students and early career researchers (ECR) at the conference, as well as the PhD Masterclasses just before the conference for 16 students.

The DSA continues to offer its annual Masters' level dissertation and PhD thesis prizes. The award winners were announced and presented their prizes at the annual conference in 2025 and the winners presented their work at the conference. The winning dissertations were mentioned on and linked to from the DSA website.

In late 2025, a new Student/ ECR Fund was created by the DSA to provide financial support for activities organised by students and/or Early Career Researchers (ECRs) that directly assist DSA student and ECR members.

6. Heads of Centres

A Heads of Centres meeting was held online on 13 November 2025. An update on DSA activities was given and liaison with the DSA Communications Officer. The focus of the meeting was a round-up of DSA activities and a presentation of the EDI Audit carried out by members of DSA Council.

7. DSA webinars

The DSA hosted several webinars during this reporting period. 'What next for a broken aid system?' took place at the start of April 2025 and 'UK aid: where do we go from here?' ran at the end of the same month. They were attended by 276 and 264 people online respectively and with a further 477 and 238 watching on YouTube. A webinar, 'Getting published in journals: tips for first-time authors' was held in October as a follow up to the conference, with more than 400 registrants.

8. Publications

The DSA-OUP book series published two new titles during this year: Taxing for Development by Matt Barlow & The Invisible Hand(out), by Samuel Brazys. The DSA-OUP book series editors were not able to hold their usual annual event at the DSA2025 conference to advertise the book series and encourage DSA members and attendees to propose their research as book titles. The CO has reached out to authors to deepen engagement and communication which has proved successful.

9. DSA-EDI Audit

The DSA has an ongoing commitment to advancing equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across the discipline. As part of this, it applied for and received funding from the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to understand and address the specific barriers facing racially minoritised early career researchers (ECRs) in Development Studies and related fields. The Council sub-committee with the assistance of a recruited research assistant completed the project and finalised the report in 2025/26 . As part of the project, they organised and held seven workshops around the UK for racially minoritised ECRs, which were very well received and provided valuable data for the final report. The results were shared with the HoCs during the November meeting, as well as to the DSA membership via the DSA newsletter and website. A report, video, audio recording and summary was produced.

10. Decolonising Development Database

Since its launch in 2024, the the database has expanded to include over fifty colleagues with expertise on different aspects of decolonisation as it pertains to the study of development. Those interested, or engaged, in decolonising development anywhere in the world can join and interact with one another to find expertise on decolonisation. The aim is for an active and engaged database rather than a large number of members. DSA and Council members are sharing information about the existence of the database, so colleagues can be pointed to existing expertise and support. The vision for the Directory is that it will facilitate the establishment of longer-term pedagogical and research dialogues in addition to mentoring relationships.

11. JDS Special Issue

During 2025, via discussions and negotiations between the Journal of Development Studies and the DSA Council, it was agreed that there will be a JDS Special Issue arising out of the DSA conference each year. Papers from the 2026 Dublin Conference will form the first Special Issue. An internal committee (comprising of members from council as well as conference scientific committee) will review submissions after the annual conference each year and select 8 papers to be published in the special issue.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Membership

Individual membership at year-end was 1249, with over 50% being global South (gS) members - 682 (fee waiver category). The student membership category was up on 2024 numbers, while individual and concessions stayed steady. One small institutional member was lost during the year.

Finances

With sufficient reserves, the DSA continues to seek to allocate its reserves towards its central purposes: cash at bank increased from £153,741 to £202,200 on 31st January 2026.

Expenditure was slightly lower than budgeted in some areas (Council and HoCs meetings predominantly online; Study Groups claimed less than budgeted but more than the previous year. Conference grants provided by DSA were fully utilised this year. The EDI Workshops and Audit work used up the external funding received in 2024. The student fund was only created this year and so has not incurred spending yet. Income was higher than predicted due to another refund of an overpayment to GDI in 2020/21 for the salary of the DSA Communications Manager, additionally individual membership fees were slightly higher than predicted. The conference made a slight deficit due to late VAT charges from the University of Bath.

The DSA Communications Officer Grade 6, 0.6 FTE moved to a freelance contract to fit with the DSA being an unincorporated charity. The CO continues their work enabling the DSA to achieve its strategic objectives, particularly in advancing connections to deepen understanding of development, raising the profile of the UK development studies community and providing a platform for its collective voice and increasing our institutional strength.

Administration

The administration of the DSA continues to be carried out by NomadIT, on a rolling contract.

FUTURE PLANS

AIMS FOR THE COMING YEAR (2026-27)

Particular goals in the coming year are as follows:

Timing	Activity
Feb 2026 - Jan 2027	Assist Communications Officer to continue to promote DSA activities and boost the visibility of the association.
June 2026	Host and organise another DSA hybrid conference at University College Dublin, Ireland
Oct/Nov 2026	Convene Heads of Centres meeting.
Through the year	Administer the new forms of support setup for PGR and ECR scholars, as well as continuing the expanding student representation from our institutional members and within Council. Continue to provide support to DSA members, particularly those based in global South; reinvigorate the Study Groups with new convenors; attract new institutional members, including publishers; further promotion of the Decolonising Development Database; Produce the first special issue with the journal JDS. Host further DSA webinars on pertinent topics.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Recruitment, appointment, induction and training of new trustees

Trustees are recruited from members of the DSA with upcoming vacancies signalled in communications to all members from the Chair of the Board. Applicants present their credentials and intentions to the AGM in person or by letter and their appointment is subject to vote. Induction and training takes place before applicants make their approach through informal discussions with existing board members and/or after their appointment. Positions with specific responsibilities (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) involve more prior training and preparation.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The DSA Council reviews sources of, and responses to, risks at least annually. Sources of risk include fluctuating membership, conference attendance, level of study group activity and the status of development studies in the UK. Risks are mitigated through regular consultation with institutional members through Heads of Centres' meetings, monthly newsletters and email communication, reviewing membership categories and rates, reviewing the purpose and design of annual conferences and reviewing costs involved in administering the charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

SC044852

Principal address

23 Linton Road
Hove
BN3 5HF

Trustees

Dr L Camfield
Dr U Kambhampati
Ms A Prizzon
Mr P Taylor
Ms S Fennell
Mr J Fisher
Dr I Roy
Dr M Jennings
Prof E Mawdsley
Dr E B Gebremariam
Mr Z B Owutuamor
Dr T Y Mir
Ms S C Ronoh
Dr K Patel
Dr C Louise Mcloughlin
Dr I Nateel
Dr R Mamman (appointed 17.12.2025)
Ms T Gichuki (resigned 27.6.2025)
Prof M J A Chowdhury

Independent Examiner

Mr Saeid Mokhtassi
Sterling Partners Limited
Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisors
2nd Floor, Grove House
774-780 Wilmslow Road
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M20 2DR

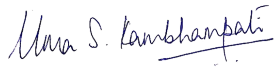
Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Development Studies Association

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 24/06/2026 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Development Studies Association

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Development Studies Association
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Development Studies Association (the Trust) for the year ended 31 January 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr Saeid Mokhtassi

Sterling Partners Limited
Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisors
2nd Floor, Grove House
774-780 Wilmslow Road
Didsbury
Manchester
Greater Manchester
M20 2DR

Date: **24/06/2026**

Development Studies Association

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		360	-	360	425
Charitable activities					
Promotion of development research		207,796	-	207,796	242,226
Investment income	2	3,664	-	3,664	3,772
Total		211,820	-	211,820	246,423
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Promotion of development research		163,361	-	163,361	228,925
NET INCOME		48,459	-	48,459	17,498
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		153,741	-	153,741	136,243
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		202,200	-	202,200	153,741

The notes form part of these financial statements

Development Studies Association

Balance Sheet
31 January 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank	5	202,200	-	202,200	153,741
NET CURRENT ASSETS		202,200	-	202,200	153,741
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		202,200	-	202,200	153,741
NET ASSETS		202,200	-	202,200	153,741
FUNDS	6				
Unrestricted funds				202,200	153,741
TOTAL FUNDS				202,200	153,741

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ..... and were signed on its behalf by:
24/06/2026

Uma S. Kambhampati
.....
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 permits a charity to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities where gross income in the financial year does not exceed £250,000, therefore receipts and payments accounts and a statement of assets and liabilities in its balance sheet) have been prepared and presented for the year; this is consistent with previous years.

Income
All income, including the subscriptions, conference income and bank interest are recorded when received.

Expenditure
All expenditure are recorded when paid.

Trustees' expenses
These expenses are included in the financial statements once amounts are expended by the Trustees on behalf of the charity.
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Trustees' indemnity insurance
No charitable funds have been used to purchase insurance to indemnify the Trustees against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Interest received	3,664	3,772

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 January 2026 nor for the year ended 31 January 2025.

continued...

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS - continued

Trustees' expenses

Trustees expenses of £Nil (2025: £Nil) were paid during the year.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	425	-	425
Charitable activities			
Promotion of development research	242,226	-	242,226
Investment income	3,772	-	3,772
Total	246,423	-	246,423
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Promotion of development research	228,925	-	228,925
NET INCOME	17,498	-	17,498
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	136,243	-	136,243
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	153,741	-	153,741

5. CASH AT BANK

	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
Cash at bank and in hand	202,200	153,741
Total	202,200	153,741

continued...

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Each of the below funds have arisen due to the donors specifying that the funds donated have to be spent on the specific projects.

Restrictions are imposed through contracts which are signed at the beginning of each project.

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 January 2026.

8. FUNDS

Project	Funds brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	Funds carried forward £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
General fund	153,741	211,820	163,361	-	202,200
	153,741	211,820	163,361	-	202,200
TOTAL FUNDS	153,741	211,820	163,361	-	202,200

Development Studies Association

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 January 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	360	425
Investment income		
Interest received	3,664	3,772
Charitable activities		
Subscriptions	68,617	97,990
Conference and exhibitions	139,179	144,236
	207,796	242,226
Total incoming resources	211,820	246,423
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Conference	105,408	169,996
Administration	29,092	25,711
Study groups	3,486	5,076
Bank and credit charges	430	781
	138,416	201,564
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	13,458	17,099
Social security	1,441	943
Pensions	673	800
Council expenses	1,824	832
Freelancer	2,827	-
	20,223	19,674
Governance costs		
Sundries	1,656	3,416
Accountancy and legal fees	3,066	2,976
Consultancy fees	-	870
Professional subscriptions	-	425
	4,722	7,687
Total resources expended	163,361	228,925
Net income	48,459	17,498