



EDINBURGH PEACE INSTITUTE

Trustees

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

**Accounting period:
01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025**

Submitted to:

OSCR

Submitted by

The Edinburgh Peace Institute

5 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh,
Scotland, UK, EH24AN



**Registered
SCIO
SC051939**



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OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

INDUSTRY LANDSCAPE

Charities/NGOs/INGOs operating in the peace and conflict sector face a highly volatile and severe landscape. The geopolitical environment is defined by entrenched, long-lasting conflicts (such as those in Ukraine, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, [Gaza and West Bank], Sudan, and Myanmar) that feature a profound and flagrant disregard for International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Civilians are increasingly bearing the brunt of modern warfare, which is characterized by the urbanisation of conflict, the rise of autonomous and drone warfare, and widespread attacks on civilian infrastructure. Concurrently, the sector is grappling with a profound institutional and financial crisis; humanitarian and peacebuilding funding fell by roughly 25% over the past year, as global military spending reached record highs.

Key Difficulties in Developing Peace Initiatives

Developing and executing peace initiatives to advocate for “unarmed civilians needs” the foundation of our work, has become exceptionally perilous and complex due to several compounding factors:

- **Normalisation of Impunity:** There is a near-total collapse of accountability for state and non-state actors who violate human needs and human rights. When international norms and UN Security Council mechanisms are consistently blocked or ignored by major powers, NGOs/INGOs lose the legal and diplomatic leverage required to broker local ceasefires, and/or establish humanitarian corridors. As a result, peace researchers, find it incredibly difficult to access and analyse a conflict-societies human needs, and to advocate for these at higher levels.
- **The "Securitisation" of Aid, and Instrumentalisation:** Host governments and warring factions increasingly view peacebuilding and civilian needs advocacy through a hyper-securitised lens. neutral NGOs/INGOs are often accused of espionage or political interference, resulting in restrictive "foreign agent" laws, bureaucratic gatekeeping, and the denial of humanitarian access.
- **Physical Peril and Targeted Attacks:** The peacemaking and humanitarian space has shrunk physically. Aid workers and peace advocates are no longer viewed as neutral, protected entities; instead, they face a record number of deadly, targeted attacks, making sustained community-level peace work highly dangerous.
- **The Funding Chasm and Short-Termism:** Peacebuilding requires long-term, flexible funding to foster trust and dialogue. However, due to severe budget cuts, the remaining capital is heavily earmarked for short-term, reactive emergency relief (food, water, shelter) rather than proactive, preventative peace initiatives, to maintain human needs, and prevent backsliding.
- **Asymmetric and Fragmented Networks:** Modern conflicts heavily feature fragmented, non-state armed groups, criminal gangs, and proxy militias. Identifying legitimate interlocutors for peace dialogue is incredibly difficult, as these groups often lack a centralized command structure or any baseline allegiance to international legal frameworks.

Given these constraints, Charities/NGOs/INGOs are forced to pivot toward hyper-localized, civil-society-led protection frameworks, attempting to mitigate civilian harm at the grassroots level while the broader multilateral peace architecture undergoes a painful reconfiguration, all while failing to protect the peace of unarmed civilians in conflict spaces.



TRUSTEES & VOLUNTARY ADVISORS

The growing team at The Edinburgh Peace Institute, are all voluntary actors, we give our time and academic experience to develop the charity, and its purposes, to include: training, policy research, advocacy, and mediation engagement, with no economic benefit. We are aware that as EPI develops its discussions, advocacy, and projects, many of these important initiatives, require donor funding to scale these interventions for the public benefit of others.

To support EPI initiatives, email: info@edinburghpeaceinstitute.org



DIRECTOR:
DR WILLIAM W THOMSON
TRUSTEE



SECRETARY:
DR SARAH MARSDEN
TRUSTEE



TREASURER
MR EDWARD IVES
TRUSTEE



INT' ADVISOR
DR JEREMY KLEIDOTSKY



AFRICA PROGRAMME LEAD
DR DOYINSOLA AGUNBIADE



EPI INT' VOLUNTEERS
+10



CHARITY DATA & PURPOSES

CHARITY DATA

1. Reference and

Administration Details

- **Charity Name:** The Edinburgh Peace Institute (EPI)
- Registered Charity Number: SC051939
- **Principal Address:** 5 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, EH24AN

2. Structure, Governance, and Management

- The charity is controlled by its Constitution and operates as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).
- Governing document to be reviewed in 2026-2027 reporting period.

3. Charitable Purpose

- The advancement of peace education.
- The advancement of human rights,*** conflict resolution, or reconciliation.
- The promotion of (research) towards building religious or racial harmony.
- The advocacy and promotion of peace, and where it directly impacts human needs.

NOTE***

EPI is not a legal organisation, pursuing “human rights” issues. Our analysis and advocacy discuss human needs more broadly in contention with conflict. There is however, a developing research agenda, in the sector, on the relationship between human rights and peace.



OPERATIONS & SERVICES

The Edinburgh Peace Institute, has developed a methodology of intervention for the peace and conflict sector, that combines an overlapping system of research informed praxis.

4. What the charity is set up to do and how it does this:



ADVOCACY & MEDIATION SERVICES

Voluntary Advocacy & Mediation: EPI advocacy and mediation offering, for human needs and other conflict issues affecting conflict-societies, is derived from research data and empirical evidence. We share policy information, and as a secondary development we advocate and discuss how these research and policy findings can be mediated towards resolution. The engagement develops as an organic trust-building engagement with civil society actors, NGOs, and Political actors.



RESEARCH & POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Research & Policy Research: EPI has sought funding through various channels for research funding, to assist projects. EPI has developed its research base by offering placements for Post Doc PhD's, providing a space for these researchers to develop their ongoing work. Our research activities inform our training development needs, and training courses, to engage in research led training. More importantly, our policy research developments are gaining momentum in the Middle East and Africa.



TRAINING & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Training & Educational Outreach: Developments in this area are situated in developing CPD Continuing Professional Development courses for civil society in conflict, humanitarian agencies, diplomats and ministers of countries seeking to understand conflict intervention, human needs mediation, and peace-making. New courses are in development for 2026/27 to offer mediation training for communities in Nigeria, as part of a wider project, to build community relations and deescalate 'internally displaced persons, (IDPs) conflict.



PRIMARY REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Details of regional engagements currently established with research volunteers at EPI:



ISRAEL & PALESTINE

EPI has initiated its NGO application for the territories of Israel and Palestine. Currently, our Palestine NGO application is completed, it has been legally notarised, and, endorsed by the Palestinian Mission UK, including the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Our final status, is to submit the application to the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah. We await a credible window of intervention, to complete the final stage. EPI, will then commit to finalising our Israel NGO status, to assist the needs of both Israeli and Palestinian, on a path to peace.



NIGERIA

Conflict and environmental crises in the north of Nigeria, has impacted the displacement families in the region, many are fleeing south, creating further turmoil, as communities attempt to facilitate the movement of mass flows of people. One area we are developing examines the impact of “herder” and “pastoralist” communities, and the conflicts that arise, when they meet. Our conflict prevention measures in this area extend to developing research, and mediation practices, to be delivered as a training package to inform communities of routes to deescalation.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

EPI research in this area, extends to examine the relational aspect of political “speech acts”, and how these are perceived in local communities. There is an argument that the political sphere, can jeopardise a fragile peace situation, by inflaming rhetoric, that pits one group against the other, developing a dichotomy of division and otherness, within a democratic system. Democratic peace processes, are key to inclusion, where all have a human right to identity, political actualisation, and expression. This policy research develops peace education engagement, to develop communities critical awareness of speech acts, and how to interpret divisive political language.



PRIMARY IMPACTS

Outlined are three primary public benefit impacts, among many over the year, that speak to the development of this charity, as it strives to benefit those in need, in public spaces, particularly, where the atrocity of violence, has oppressed the needs of societies caught in conflict.



PHD RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT

EPI has initiated a specific area of need for early career researchers. Particularly, for those researchers who have obtained a PhD in peace and conflict studies, but have yet to find suitable academic employment. EPI, provides a professional space for these Post-Doctoral candidates, to continue the pursuit of their chosen research areas, while supporting the work and development of EPI, for the benefit of others, in conflict spaces.



LEADERSHIP & POLICY TRAINING

As a defined research institute, EPI, can offer researchers, the opportunity to reach out to external organisations for support, collaboration, and training, to develop co-collaboration and leadership in the field of policy and research. One such example, is where EPI staff were accepted, after a lengthy application process, onto the British Academy's (BA) Leadership Programme for Early Career Researchers. (Applied 24/25, engaged the BA programme 25/26).



IMPACT: BUILDING HOPE

Our daily and monthly communications with researchers, humanitarians, and civil society actors working in some of the most extreme places of human suffering and oppression, is probably the most important impact of all our work at EPI. It is not measured in monetary or economic currency or value, rather, it is measured in human kindness, a leadership of concern, and the ability to listen. EPI discuss potential projects, and needs engagements to assist those who suffer. People say one thing, continually, that our conversations offer hope. Outreach and communication are the building blocks and starting point of our interventions, and building hope, is in many cases the most profound impact we can measure, in our daily endeavours, as we witness through narratives, the human cost of war.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Edinburgh Peace Institute, has been developed over the past two years with no external funding source from donors. The charity has been led by the Trustees, and research volunteers as a pro-bono initiative. The EPI team are aware that larger programme initiatives will require external donor funding, However, the team are also aware that the Edinburgh Peace Institute is serving as a platform to attract research volunteers, to benefit public good in conflict spaces.



During the financial accounting period of 2024-2025, the Edinburgh Peace Institute did not trade in monetary engagement. No funds were received during the accounting period of 2024-2025. The pro-bono development of the charity, and growing engagements, are now being designed to apply for funding to realise projects on the ground.

DONOR INFORMATION	DONATION	PROJECT FUNDING	YEAR
STAFFORD TRUST - SC018079	£3000.00	0.0000	2025-2026

NOTE***

EPI submitted an application for funding to the Stafford Trust, (SC018079) during this accounting period, 2024-2025. Although successful, in our application, the donated funds did not arrive into our account until the start of the financial year covering, 2025-2026, and will show in this latter accounting period. EPI have earmarked this funding to assist with our ongoing peace development initiatives, and we will provide a breakdown of costs in the next financial accounting year 2025-2026.



APPENDIX 3

Independent accounts examiner report:

APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2							
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity name	The Edinburgh Peace Institute							
Registered charity number	SC	051939							
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date	Day	Month	Year	to	Period end date	Day	Month	Year
		01	09	2024			31	08	2025
Set out on pages							(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.								
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.								
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]								
	1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or								
	2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.								
Signed**:	K.Vn.	Date:	21/07/2026						
Name:	K. Vn.								
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Accounting/Bookkeeper								
Address:	Scotland								

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

**OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures.



APPENDIX 3

Continued...

Independent accounts examiner report:

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

Report to the trustees of The Edinburgh Peace Institute (SC051939) on the accounts for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. I, (K. V.) hereby act to provide an Independent Examiners Report stating that The Edinburgh Peace Institute did not trade financially or that any financial transactions took place in it's third year as a charity, and that no items of concern have arisen.

The reason for non trading is due to setting up a lengthy process to register as an NGO in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, with changing dynamics and shifting registration formalities. It is hoped that NGO registration will be completed in 2026, and will open up the international donor funding space for EPI to assist human needs and peace objectives as advocacy.

21/07/2026

K. Vn.
Accounting/Bookkeeper
Scotland



Visit Our Website
WWW.EDINBURGHPEACEINSTITUTE.ORG



Our Email
INFO@EDINBURGHPEACEINSTITUTE.ORG



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As Director of The Edinburgh Peace Institute (EPI), I confirm that the information provided within this Trustees' Annual Report for the period ending 31st August 2025 is an accurate representation of the charity's operations, activities, and financial standing. Throughout this reporting period, the Institute has operated on a voluntary, pro-bono basis. Despite operating within an increasingly volatile global landscape marked by widespread conflict and restricted funding for peacebuilding, our dedicated team of trustees, advisors, and post-doctoral research volunteers has remained steadfast in serving the public benefit of others. We have continued to lay vital groundwork through research-informed advocacy, CPD training development, and civil society engagement across volatile regions. Although EPI did not engage in active monetary trading during the 2024–2025 financial period, we have successfully secured initial funding for the forthcoming cycle and remain focused on scaling our capacity, maintaining strict neutrality, and upholding rigorous safeguarding protocols in all future endeavors. On behalf of the Trustees, I extend our gratitude to our research volunteers, regional partners, and early supporters who continue to help us build hope and advocate for human needs in spaces affected by violent conflict.

Charity Vision for 2025–2026

Looking ahead to the next operational year, the Edinburgh Peace Institute will transition from foundational structure and pro-bono policy research into active, project-funded international interventions. The vision for the upcoming year focuses on four strategic pillars:

- **Finalising Regional NGO Registrations:** EPI aims to complete the final submission phase with the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah for its NGO status, followed by finalizing NGO registration in Israel. This legal foundation will allow EPI to access international donor funding and deliver direct advocacy and human-needs mediation for both Israeli and Palestinian communities.
- **Expanding Training & Capacity Development in Africa:** Building on research into forced displacement, herder-pastoralist friction, and political rhetoric, EPI plans to roll out specialised Continuing Professional Development (CPD) mediation packages. This includes community de-escalation training for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria and peace education around political "speech acts" in Côte d'Ivoire.
- **Deploying Initial Grant Funding:** With project funding secured from the Stafford Trust for the 2025–2026 period, EPI will carefully deploy these financial resources while upholding strict neutral-capacity and safeguarding frameworks.
- **Nurturing Academic & Policy Leadership:** EPI will continue its commitment to early-career researchers by offering Post-Doc PhD placements. The leadership team will also leverage engagements like the British Academy's Leadership Programme (2025/2026) to expand co-collaboration with global research networks and humanitarian bodies.

Signed: Dr. William W. Thomson
Director, The Edinburgh Peace Institute
Date: 21/07/2026.



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2024-2025 Annual Report & Accounts

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Submitted by

The Edinburgh Peace Institute



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