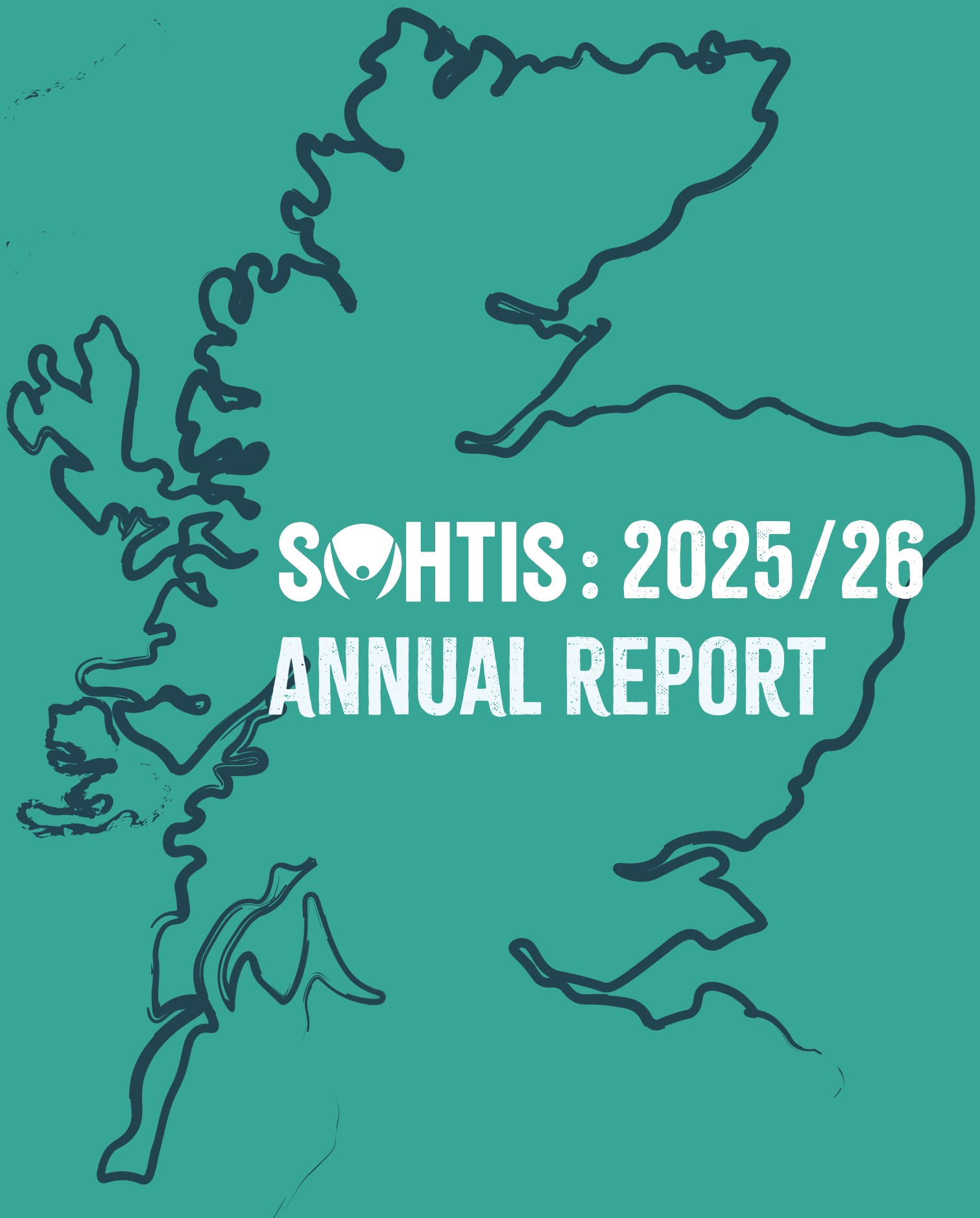




SOHTIS: 2025/26 ANNUAL REPORT

SOHTIS.ORG

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Scottish Registered Charity: SC048296
Limited Company: SC594053

INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking remains a growing and deeply concerning issue across the UK and Scotland. As one of the most serious human rights abuses, it is widely misunderstood, under-reported, and frequently goes unseen.

SOHTIS remains steadfast in our vision of a Scotland free from human trafficking and exploitation, where everyone lives in freedom with dignity and respect. We continue to adopt a human rights-based approach to the work of recovering victims and supporting survivors.

Throughout 2025-2026, we continued to deliver our four Strategic Goals:

GOAL 1 - TRANSFORMATIVE SERVICES

GOAL 3 - IMPACTFUL AWARENESS

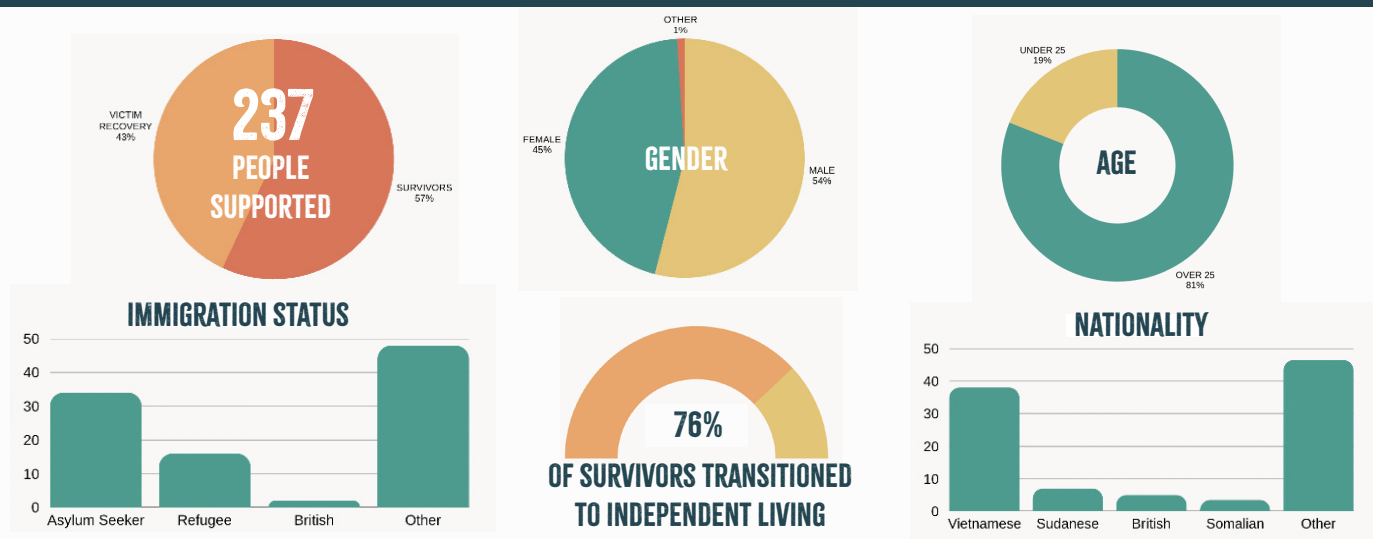
GOAL 2 - BRILLIANT TEAM

GOAL 4 - SUPPORTIVE SYSTEMS

TRANSFORMATIVE SERVICES

We delivered trauma-informed, strengths-based support for child and adult victims and survivors of human trafficking wherever they were in their journey of recovery and as they rebuilt their lives avoiding the risk of re-trafficking.

Our Transformative Services are built around three key provisions; Empowerment, Advocacy, and Therapy, reflecting what victims and survivors tell us is most important for their recovery. Our co-produced 12 Essentials to Thrive Framework continues to shape our priorities and ensures support reflects what people say they need to heal, grow, and thrive.



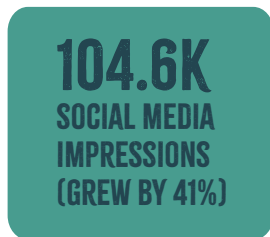
BRILLIANT TEAM

This year we strengthened our team, growing our staff by 45% and invested in specialist training to meet the complex needs of survivors. We were proud to welcome staff with lived experience of trafficking, whose insight has shaped and improved our services. We enhanced wellbeing support through monthly external supervision facilitated by a forensic psychologist and improved our staff benefit package.

We also expanded opportunities, supporting six internships, two of whom went on to join our staff team. We doubled our volunteer cohort and included new client-facing roles.

IMPACTFUL AWARENESS

This year we strengthened awareness and understanding of human trafficking across Scotland through training, research, campaigning, and creative public engagement. We trained over 1,200 practitioners, published free tools for frontline workers, partnered with major corporates, grew our Student Ambassador Programme, and used the arts to reach new audiences. We also influenced national policy, including work on the development of the Scottish Government's Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy 2025, lobbied for Guidance on victim entitlements, and the standardisation of independent advocacy and chaired a revision of the National Occupational Standards. Alongside this, we continued to champion for the effective implementation of the non-punishment principle and developed new prevention and data-modelling approaches to better identify risk and protect survivors.

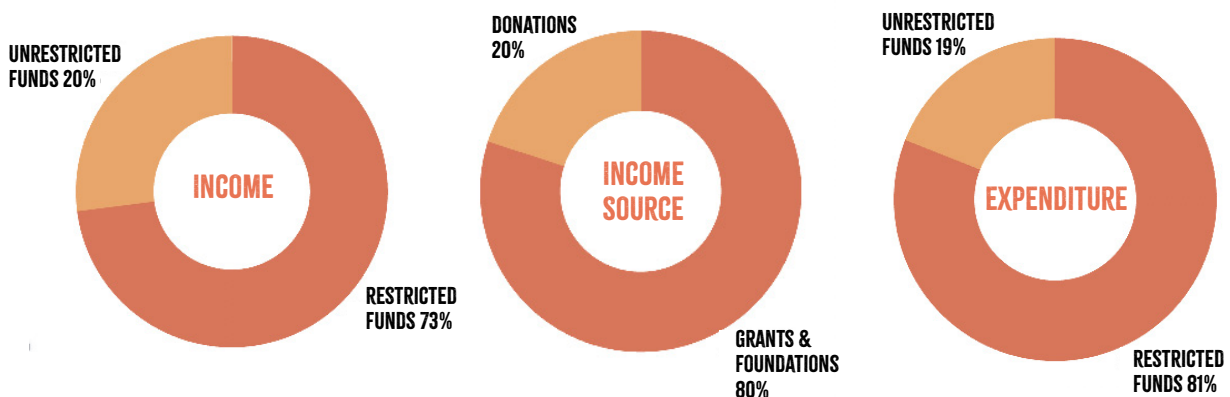


SUPPORTIVE SYSTEMS

This year we strengthened the systems that support our work. We expanded our physical presence by opening new Freedom Hubs in Glasgow and central Edinburgh, creating confidential, survivor-designed spaces that provide safety and an environment where support and empowerment can flourish. We also upgraded our data management system, giving staff and survivors better tools to track progress, understand need, and respond more effectively.

Our Board continued to provide strong leadership, completing the SCVO Good Governance Checkup with scores above 85% and setting priorities to further strengthen governance in 2026–2027.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



NEXT STEPS - 2026-2027

We will build on the progress of our current Strategic Plan by expanding our empowerment and advocacy services, increasing peer-led opportunities, and strengthening partnerships that create housing and employment pathways for survivors.

We will grow our team, introduce new roles and training, and deepen our work with national partners to improve guidance, prevention tools, and public awareness. We will invest further in data monitoring, cyber security, fundraising, and carry out a strategic review resulting in the publication of a new 2027–2029 Strategy. We will remain guided throughout by our core values of compassion, justice, dignity, and respect.



Valerie spent 34 years trapped in human trafficking, surviving horrendous abuse while trying to protect her four children. When someone finally recognised the signs and intervened, she was able to escape — but again and again the perpetrators took her back. Once recovered the 'safe' world felt impossible to navigate. Fear, flashbacks, paranoia and trauma followed her everywhere as she and her children moved between temporary homes, a women's refuge, and often relied on her car as the only place that felt safe.

For the years that followed, Valerie was told by services that her situation was "too complex," and was left without the support she desperately needed. She says, everything changed when SOHTIS saw her, believed her, and stood beside her. When it seemed impossible, we kept fighting for Valerie — providing practical help, compassion, and advocacy making her and her children feel genuinely safe.

With that support, calm began to emerge, protection for her children, and strength to rebuild her life. Today, Valerie and her children are safe. For the first time, she knows what freedom, trust and love truly feel like and she is looking ahead with hope.

Valerie said, 'Forever I will shout from the rooftops, SOHTIS saved my life'.



Arham, a Pakistani man, came to SOHTIS after surviving labour exploitation in Scotland. He had endured violence, deception, and abuse during a period of profound vulnerability. When we met him, he was frightened, destitute, and unsure where to turn. Through trauma-informed advocacy, we supported him to safely share his experience, helping him be formally recognised as a trafficked person and access the statutory 90 days crisis support.

Arham's needs were significant and could not be resolved within that period and so he returned to SOHTIS for ongoing help, gaining specialist mental health support, securing an out-of-court settlement from his exploiter and began rebuilding stability in his life.

Today, Arham is better able to understand his options, make informed decisions, and is moving forward with reduced risk of re-trafficking. His journey of recovery continues.

OUR Vision:

**A SCOTLAND FREE FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AND EXPLOITATION, WHERE EVERY PERSON LIVES
IN FREEDOM WITH DIGNITY, AND RESPECT.**