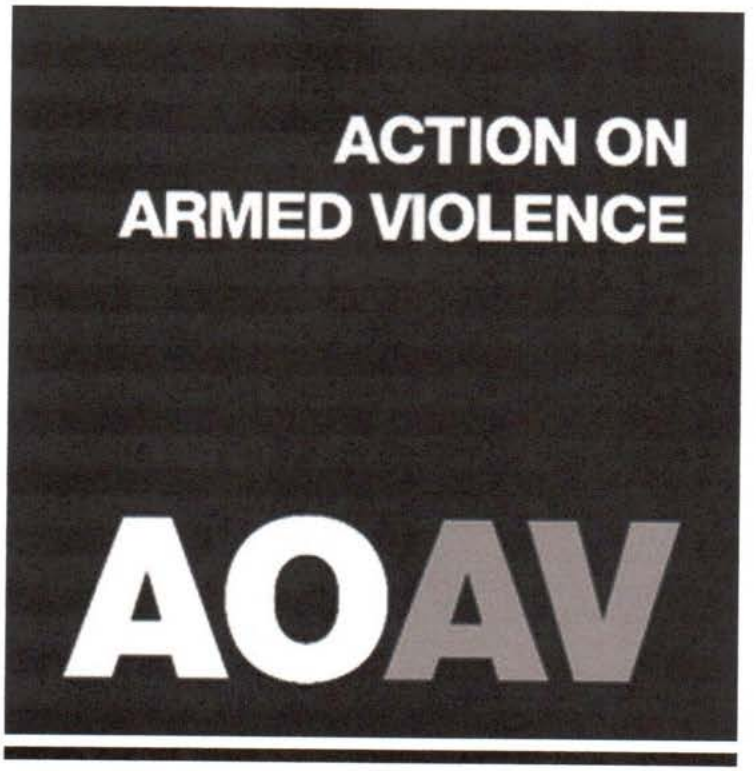

ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE

A company limited by guarantee
Company Number 06381573 Charity Number 1122057

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Legal and Administrative Information

Board

Dr Marina Brilman	
Ms Olivia Dix	(Co-chair)
Mr Malcolm Rodgers	
Colonel Steve Smith	
Professor Michael Spagat	(Co-chair)

Chief Executive
Iain Overton

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Charity Number
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ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

INTRODUCTION BY THE CO-CHAIRS: OLIVIA DIX AND MIKE SPAGAT

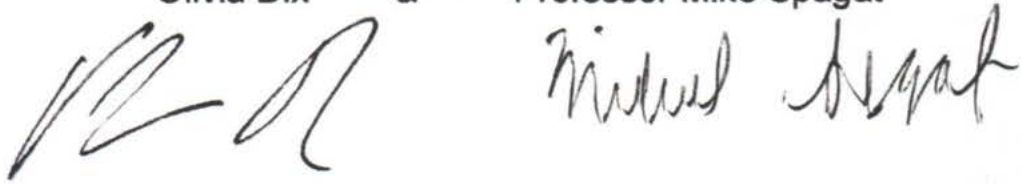
Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) is a charity whose work on a range of issues related to the global reduction of armed violence is respected worldwide. It has become one of the outstanding research bodies in its field, despite its modest size and resources. We are grateful to our indefatigable Executive Director and his small dedicated team of two, Jennifer Dathan and Lydia Day, who have produced an astonishing volume of high-quality research and advocacy in 2019. With such a small team, AOAV relies on volunteers and we also thank the 40 volunteers, who have made such a contribution to its research.

AOAV is also well-supported by its Board and we thank our colleague Trustees who give freely of their considerable individual expertise and experience.

In common with other organisations in the field of armed violence, fundraising continues to be a challenge, but AOAV moves forward into 2020 with a clear mandate and a stable financial situation. We are very grateful to all the donors who have continued to support our work.

We believe that AOAV is an important voice in advocating for a global reduction of armed violence and it is our privilege to be associated with it.

Olivia Dix & Professor Mike Spagat



ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – IAIN OVERTON

AOAV continued to undertake research and advocacy in 2019. Notably, it was the ninth year of the organisation's Explosive Violence Monitoring Project and, in addition to other research and advocacy, we worked on producing major reports looking at the impacts of explosive violence on gender, health and environment. We also published numerous reports on issues pertaining to explosive violence and the media, reviews of US and UK air-strikes, and a wide array of other reports that examined explosive violence from numerous angles. We worked through the year towards ensuring that political commitments to refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas is on the agenda at high level fora in the UN and beyond. This work, as part of our lobbying with the International Network of Explosive Weapons, has led to over 100 States stating that they would not use such weapons in towns or cities. We also worked on the issue of IEDs and the harm they bring to ensure such work is now central to the disarmament debate. Our Explosive Violence Monitoring project is the only open-source annual report recording the global harm caused by explosive weapons and is quoted widely. As in previous years, our monitor had wide pick-up in the national and international media. Such reporting has helped spread our advocacy aims both nationally and internationally, both enhancing AOAV's prominence as well as ensuring our key messaging is heard widely. We partnered with a number of coalitions to achieve our advocacy ends. These include the International Network of Explosive Weapons (INEW), Protect at Imperial College, the International Blast Research Network (IBRN) at Southampton, the Global Forum for the Arms Trade, the Arms Trade Treaty Forum, the APPG on Explosive Threats, Birkbeck's Centre for Human Rights Reporting and the UK Working Group on Arms, to name some. In 2019, major funding was generously given by both the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. We thank them. Also, AOAV was helped enormously by volunteers who selflessly gave their time and assistance to assist our work. The Executive Director also thanks the Trustees for their wise counsel and support on research that, in the end, is infused with sorrow and pity. But without such research far more sorrow and pity would be sown.

Iain Overton.

Iain Overton
Executive Director

ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019. This is also the Directors' report as required by section 417 of the Companies Act 2006 and all Trustees are directors. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 of the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, 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 ("SORP").

MISSION AND APPROACH

Mission

Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) central mission is to carry out research and advocacy in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

To help reduce this burden, AOAV carries out research and advocacy campaigns to strengthen international laws and standards on the availability and use of conventional and improvised weapons, to build recognition of the rights of victims and survivors of armed violence and to research, understand and act effectively on the root causes of armed violence in affected countries.

To this end, AOAV is committed to:

- *reducing civilian harm from the use of indiscriminate explosive weapons, particularly in populated areas, and securing international support and agreement to this end.*
- *reducing the impact of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) on civilian populations by advocating for international action that prevents the spread and usage of such devices or their precursor materials*
- *addressing the impact of small arms and light weapons against civilian groups, with a focus on abuses by state actors, government responses to gun massacres, and the trade in illicit small arms*
- *recording the harm from explosive violence and gun violence, with an eye to pursuing the above advocacy goals.*

AOAV's advocacy and research can help it reach its goals:

- By increasing awareness of the key issues in the public, private and political spheres, through the dissemination of target research, so that state parties and international bodies are made aware of the immediate and long-term human

damage caused by explosive weapons in populated sectors, which affect wide areas , and the repercussions of such use on national and regional insecurity;

- By providing information about the international community's legal and humanitarian responsibilities in relation to tackling the use and dissemination of explosive weapons, and through articulating how existing legal and humanitarian instruments need to be created to foster a cogent, coordinated international response;
- By promulgating policy recommendations and relevant research to key parties so as to strengthen existing humanitarian protection instruments, and to hold governments accountable for disproportionate use of force against civilians
- By fostering dialogue and disseminating research between private, military, governmental and non-governmental parties, so as to share knowledge on how best to reduce the impact of armed violence.

In 2019, we undertook four main projects:

1. The Global Explosive Weapons Monitor, 2019
2. The reverberating effects of explosive violence examined: three reports on gender, healthcare and the environment
3. The media and its reporting on explosive violence examined
4. UK airstrikes: seeking accountability from the Ministry of Defence

Each of these will be addressed in turn, outlining the output, lobbying and impact of each.

ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

1. The Global Explosive Weapons Monitor, 2019

In 2019, AOAV published our annual report on explosive violence in 2018.

In 2018, we recorded 32,102 deaths and injuries from the use of explosive weapons around the world, as reported in English language media. Civilians continued to bear the burden of this harm, accounting for 70% (or 22,335) of these casualties. Of those civilian casualties 43% (9,615) were killed, while 57% (12,720) were injured by explosive weapons. This compares to 16,289 civilians killed (51%) and 15,615 injured (49%) in 2017.

The following articles were published around this dataset:

- AOAV's latest data on civilian harm from explosive weapons (preliminary report in collaboration with the Guardian)
- 2018: a year of explosive violence
- AOAV's 2018 Explosive Violence Monitor

We published the main 2018 findings in ten languages:

- Arabic: مراقبة العنف المتفجر في عام 2018
- Chinese: 2018年爆炸性武器监测报告
- Dutch: Monitoring Explosief Geweld in 2018
- Finnish: RÄJÄHDEISKURAPORTTI
- French: Comptabilisation des violences explosives en 2018
- German: Monitor Explosionsgewalt 2018
- Greek: ΈΛΕΓΧΟΣ ΕΚΡΗΚΤΙΚΗΣ ΒΙΑΣ 2018
- Italian: MONITOR DI VIOLENZE ESPLOSIVE 2018
- Portuguese: Monitorando a violência explosiva em 2018
- Spanish: MONITOR DE LA VIOLENCIA EXPLOSIVA 2018

Significantly, AOAV also launched a searchable database for our explosive monitor. This can be seen here: http://www.explosiveviolencedata.com.

We highlighted the publication of this report here: As over 100 states gather to discuss protecting civilians in urban, AOAV launches searchable explosive violence database

We also continued to share the data through the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX).

All of the above reports contained text that amplified our findings, and were widely disseminated via social media, MailChimp and direct mailings.

Infographic and video materials were used to highlight the findings. For instance, the video: 2018 Explosive Violence Data.

The following monthly reports were also published:

- Explosive violence in January 2019
- Explosive violence in February 2019
- Explosive violence in March 2019
- Explosive Violence in April 2019
- Explosive violence in May 2019
- Explosive violence in June 2019
- Explosive violence in July 2019
- Explosive violence in August 2019
- Explosive violence in September 2019
- Explosive violence in October 2019
- Explosive violence in November 2019
- Explosive violence in December 2019

We also published the following noteworthy incident articles on AOAV's website:

- 10 killed in Russian airstrikes on Idlib city
- 11 killed in regime shelling on Syria's Idlib
- 13 killed by airstrike in Yemen's Sanaa
- 14 killed in bombardment of market in Yemen
- 14 killed in Taliban mortar attack on Afghan market
- 16 killed and 119 injured in a suicide attack in Afghanistan's capital
- 17 killed in blast outside Mogadishu hotel
- 20 killed in suicide bombing and gun battle on Afghanistan's capital
- 22 civilians killed in Saudi-led coalition airstrikes in Yemen's Hajjah province
- 22 killed by a car bomb in Syria's Azaz
- 26 killed in Al Shabaab hotel attack in Kismayo, Somalia
- 27 civilians killed in Assad-Putin airstrikes in Syria's Idlib region
- 3 killed in suicide attack in Nigeria
- 30 killed in suicide bombing in Nigeria
- 40 killed and injured by airstrikes in Idlib
- 6 civilians killed in Saudi-led coalition airstrikes in Yemen's capital Sanaa
- Airstrike in Libya kills more than 40

- Airstrike in Yemen hits detention facility
- Airstrikes hit detention centre outside Libyan capital
- At least 42 killed and injured in regime airstrikes on Syria's Maarat Al-Nu'man
- Bomb blasts at market in Somalia kill five
- Bomb outside Kabul University kills 10 and wounds 33
- Car bomb in Syria's Afrin kills 11
- Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka kill over 320
- Kabul blast leaves at least 150 dead and injured
- Kabul wedding blast kills more than 60
- Missile attack and suicide bombings kill at least 40 in Yemen
- Mortar attack on Shia gathering kills 11 in Afghanistan's capital
- Over 100 killed and wounded in suicide bombing in Afghanistan's Kandahar
- Over 135 killed and injured in airstrikes on Syria's Maarrat al-Nu'man city
- Over 150 killed and injured by car bomb in Afghanistan's capital
- Roadside bomb kills 11 pilgrims in Afghanistan's Kandahar
- Roadside bomb kills over 30 on bus in Afghanistan
- Rocket attacks kill 6 in Libya's Tripoli
- Suicide bomb targeting market in Pakistan's Quetta kills 20
- Suicide bomber kills 5 at wedding in Afghanistan
- Suicide car bomb attack kills at least 29 in Mogadishu
- Suicide car bombing kills 10 in Kabul
- Surge in civilian casualties continues in Syria's 'buffer zone'
- Surge in violence across Afghanistan as bombings kill a further 15 in Kabul
- Taliban car bomb hits hospital in Afghanistan's Zabul province
- Taliban car bomb kills at least 14 in Ghazni
- Taliban suicide attacks kill at least 48
- US drone strike kills 30 farm workers in Afghanistan
- What we know about the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka so far…

We also published a series of other web posts relating to explosive weapons in populated areas:

- Amnesty International highlights AOAV findings in call for investigations into civilian casualties from UK airstrikes
- An investigation into the United States' rules of engagement governing the use of airstrikes
- AOAV explosive violence monitoring data cited in blast injury workshop report
- AOAV's written evidence published for the inquiry into 'The Role of Parliament in the UK Constitution: Authorising the Use of Military Force'

- As over 100 states gather to discuss protecting civilians in urban, AOAV launches searchable explosive violence database
- Court of Appeal demands review of UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia
- Defence Secretary announces new Centre of Excellence for Human Security
- Eight years of global explosive violence reviewed: 2011-2018
- New evidence to UK government documents Saudi cover-up of unlawful airstrikes in Yemen
- New Save the Children report finds three in four child casualties in world's deadliest conflicts are caused by explosive weapons
- Six months of explosive violence in 2019 examined
- The African Union Peace & Security Council issues statement indicating clear support for political declaration on EWIPA
- UN Secretary-General cites AOAV data in 2019 report on the protection of civilians
- Worst month for Afghan civilians in over eight years of casualty recording

The following advocacy interventions around our data were undertaken:

- AOAV gave lectures and presented evidence at the following institutions on explosive violence data:
    - British Foreign Office
    - National Army Museum, London
    - National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), London
    - Byline Festival, Pippingford Park, Ashdown Forest
    - Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
    - Frontline Club, London
    - NATO Centre of Excellence, UK
    - Foreign Press Association HQ, London
    - Chatham House
    - Birkbeck University, London
    - King's College, London (key-note speech in conference on terrorism)

- We presented our data at the following UN or major global events:
    - Vienna Conference on Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare, October 2019
    - UNIDIR workshop on EWIPA in Geneva, in September, 2019
    - Side event as part of the CCW in August, 2019
    - Side event at the United Nations 1st Committee in October, 2019
    - Fragile States, World Bank Forum, February 2020 (cancelled owing to Covid19)

- AOAV also:
    - presented our data at a special meeting hosted by the APPG on Explosive Threats in the British Parliament, and worked extensively with the APPG attending strategy and opening events
    - attended numerous meetings hosted by both the Humanitarian Policy Group at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) to discuss the development of a UK Protection of Civilians policy.
    - liaised with the Department for International Development, the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence (including side meetings with military personnel and Sandhurst training officials) on the protection of civilians.
    - submitted evidence to the House of Commons International Development Committee inquiry on UK Government support for SDG 16
    - engaging extensively with the UK working group of NGOs that oversees the Control Arms Export Committee
    - attended two-day meeting on Rethinking Peace and Security, an event hosted by the University of York

In addition to the above, we secured considerable media coverage of AOAV's monitor and other research. AOAV's data since the beginning of this funded period, has been cited hundreds of times in national and international press, including: AnalisiDifesa; Article 21; BBC; Business Insider; Canada's News Wire; Communities Digital News; DailyStar; Defence Web; EuroNews; Forces Network; Gulf News; Hier Lübeck; Idnes; iefimerida; Independent; Kompas; L'illustré; METRO news; Morocco World News; ND, Holland; New Zealand Herald; News24; PressePortal; RT France; RT ONLINE; RTP Noticias; SindoNews.com; Sputnik News; Task and Purpose; TeessideLive; Telegraph; The Canary; The Conversation; The Economist; The Guardian; The Independent; The London Economic; The New Arab; The Public's Radio; The Sun; The Telegraph; The Times; The Washington Post; University of Capetown News; Vijesti; Vol; WalesOnline; and Больше читайте

The following articles were also placed in national press as part of our advocacy efforts:

- Out of sight: British press ignores the continuing horror in Afghanistan (Politics.co.uk)
- A visit to Eugeniy Dubitsky - a Victim of the War in Ukraine (Byline Times)
- A hospital on the edge of civilisation (Byline Times)
- Darkness Descends: Government Suppressing People's Right to Know (Byline Times)
- Veteran MPs Deserve Scrutiny Just as Much as they Win Praise (Byline Times)
- Conflict reporting – are injuries no longer news? (Open Democracy)

Working closely with members of the International Network of Explosive Weapons (INEW), AOAV's data helped provide a central pillar in the development of a political commitment to avoid the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas. From the annual report on the protection of civilians by the UN Secretary General to repeated inclusion in civil society, diplomatic, journalistic and academic papers, AOAV's data has become widely associated with the issue of explosive violence and our repeated revelation that 90% of people killed or injured by such weapons in towns and cities are civilians is central to the moral and political framing of the issue. It is believed by AOAV that our monitoring project is an integral part of society's attempts towards preventing civilian harm in explosive conflict zones.

2. The reverberating effects of explosive violence examined: three reports on gender, healthcare and the environment.

i. Gender

AOAV worked towards the publication of the following report: The gendered effects of explosive weapons examined.

In addition, through 2019 we published the following reports on this topic:

- Examining the portrayal of female suicide bombers in the media
- Examining the gendered impacts of explosive weapons: an overview of existing datasets
- Examining the gendered impacts of explosive weapons: a literature overview
- Islamic State, Heroism, and Explosive Weapons
- The differing effects of explosive weapons on boys and girls examined
- The gendered effects on employment of explosive weapons. Iraq – a case study
- Gender and mental health in the Syrian conflict
- 'Military Age Males' in US Drone Strikes
- Health, gender and explosive violence: access to treatment after incidents of explosive violence
- The gendered impact of suicide bombings in Europe: an analysis

We hosted a major conference at Chatham House on 26th November, 2019 on gender and explosive weapons. This Chatham House conference brought together academics, NGOs and state representatives in a sustained engagement on how both the perpetrators and harms of explosive violence are gendered. It examined topics such as masculinities in terrorist organisations, how migration caused by explosive violence is gendered, and how women in Syria have been impacted by airstrikes. It involved over 40 people invited from government, international diplomatic staff, academia, civil society, journalism, UK military, and the medical profession.

In addition, we ensured our work informed the UK Parliament APPG on Explosive Threats, we shared our working with NGOs (such as Humanity & Inclusion UK) and we submitted feedback to the Ministry of Defence before the publication of their JSP1325 (Human Security). In this, we emphasised the importance of disaggregating casualty counts by gender.

To amplify this work, AOAV launched a new section on the website to collate the research on gender and explosive violence. As part of this project we analysed our own

data and that of major casualty recorders through a gendered lens. Our paper on the Chatham House event included the voices of experts and victims.

In addition, we published these:

- A life out of balance: how the war in Ukraine impacts the gender diversity of internally displaced communities
- Drone-warfare and notions of heroism and masculinity in conflict examined
- Drone Warfare, Heroism, and Masculinity: Examining the Pilots' Perspectives

Overall, our key findings included:

- Male civilians were significantly more likely to be a casualty of explosive weapons than female civilians.
- In AOAV's own data on explosive violence,where gender was specified, women account for 16% of total casualties between 2010 and 2019.
- In the Yemen Data Project between March 2015 and March 2019, 8,338 fatalities were recorded. Of these, 84.6% were adults. Within these, 11% were identified as female and 89% male.
- Women were more likely to be harmed by manufactured weapons as opposed to IEDs.
- Landmine Monitor reports that from 2011 to 2016, when gender was recorded, 87% of landmine casualties were male and 13% female.
- Different perpetrators have different gendered impacts.
- The Violations Documentation Center shows that, since the Syrian conflict began, explosive violence by Russian troops resulted in a higher proportion of adult female civilian deaths (32%).
- Explosive violence by ISIS resulted in the highest proportion of adult male civilian deaths (86%).

Our Chatham House conference also raised a series of questions around the following issues:

- the role of state perpetrators of explosive violence, looking at states' commitments under international law to consider a gender perspective on explosive weapons use and what are the gendered impacts of states' use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.
- how non-state actors use explosive violence, how women may participate in explosive violence in different jihadist groups, including as suicide bombers.

- civilian harm from explosive weapons through a gendered lens, including the impact of different weapons types, experiences of humanitarian surgery in conflict, and gendering data collection
- military harm from explosive weapons, how the proliferation of IEDs impacted soldiers' sense of heroism and why genital trauma is not properly discussed
- looked at the reverberating gendered effects of explosive violence, focusing on migration, healthcare, and mental health.

It is hoped that the questions raised from these sessions will spur on more research, more funding and more focus on this often overlooked issue.

ii. Healthcare

We undertook research trips to eastern Ukraine and the Lebanese/Syrian border to examine the direct, indirect and reverberating impacts of explosive violence on healthcare systems there. We worked towards publishing the main health report, which was finalised in 2020: Blast injury: the reverberating health consequences from the use of explosive weapons.

Published alongside this publication is a summary of the main findings. The report was broken down into four key areas of examination; physical health, psychological health, infrastructure and personnel, and access to healthcare.

We presented preliminary evidence of the reports at the following:

- Keynote speech at an Imperial College Blast Injury conference in July, 2019
- Presentation of research at an International Blast Research Network event in Cape Town on the reverberating health impacts of explosive weapons
- Presentation of evidence at the Global Health Research Group on POsT Conflict Trauma; PrOTeCT; at Imperial College London in November, 2019

We published the following reports that included interviews with experts and victims and highlighted patterns of harm:

- The Phoenix Hospital: How war impacted and then led to the rebuilding of healthcare in Popasna, eastern Ukraine
- An interview with the head of a destroyed psychiatric facility in eastern Ukraine
- A life bracketed by conflict: how one pensioner's experience in eastern Ukraine reveals the impact of explosive violence on the elderly there
- Death at a checkpoint: the Mayorsk border-crossing in eastern Ukraine
- A visit to Eugeniy Dubitsky: a victim of the war in Ukraine

- A hospital 'on the edge of civilisation'
- Syrian refugee access to healthcare in Lebanon
- AOAV interviews Dr Ghassan Abu-Sitta, Head of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the American University of Beirut Medical Centre
- Explosive violence and its impact on malnutrition in Syria
- Health, gender and explosive violence: access to treatment after incidents of explosive violence
- A review of the healthcare impact from violence in eastern Ukraine
- Syria in 2020: the deadly legacy of explosive violence and its impact of infrastructure and health
- 126 attacks on healthcare facilities around the world in 5 years: AOAV analyses the 'new normal' in warfare
- Protecting medical care in conflict: a solvable problem
- The effects of strategic bombing of Germany in WWII on health and medical care
- The Effects of Strategic Bombing in WWII on German Morale

We published videos showing some of the main findings for each section:

- physical health
- psychological health
- infrastructure and personnel
- access to healthcare

The foremost lesson is that the health impact of explosive violence is under-examined and often poorly understood, especially with regard to psychological and long-term harm and especially in children. The main findings were:

- Explosive violence results in countless immediate casualties, especially when these weapons strike populated areas
- The injuries caused by explosive weapons are complex and often require multiple operations and lifelong care
- The living conditions as a result of explosive violence also contribute to illness and disease
- Much of the data and studies of blast injury stems from developed healthcare systems and focuses on fit able-bodied males
- The exposure to explosive violence appears to contribute to a range of mental health concerns beyond post-traumatic stress disorder
- Those that have been injured by explosive weapons are significantly more likely to develop mental health concerns
- Many of the mental health impacts from explosive violence may also stem from the reverberating consequences of explosive weapon use such as displacement

- Often the communities hosting war-impacted persons are not equipped to cope with the level of mental health support needed
- Hospitals are all too frequently hit by explosive weapons in conflicts
- While such facilities should be protected, healthcare facilities frequently targeted or otherwise hit in attacks
- While health professionals often stay behind to assist the remaining populations, eventually most are forced to flee explosive violence, resulting in low numbers of professionals available to meet the needs of the populations
- The health professionals that remain do so at considerable risk and frequently become victims of the violence
- Explosive violence not only reduces the level of healthcare available but also makes it more difficult to reach due to transport difficulties, cost consideration and safety.
- The cost of healthcare is often a significant barrier for the displaced and refugees who will often have little to no income to rely on.
- Psychological support was frequently cited as difficult to access
- There are also gender barriers to access, often due to cultural and religious norms, though some have taken steps to address this barrier

iii. Environment

We undertook research trips to eastern Ukraine to examine the direct, indirect and reverberating impacts of explosive violence there. The main environment report, detailing the findings were published in 2020 in our main report, The Broken Land: the environmental consequences of explosive weapon use. Published alongside this publication is a summary of the main findings.

We presented these reports at relevant side events:

- Presentation on eight years of data and environmental reverberating impacts at a Blast Injury conference in Cape Town
- Presentation on environmental impacts, including damage to cultural heritage sites at Imperial College, London.
- AOAV's data was presented at the 23rd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisers (NDM-UN23).

Publications around the issue of the environment in relation to the above included:

- Red in tooth and claw: how war has impacted the regional parks of eastern Ukraine
- It's a dog's life: the impact of explosive violence on dogs in Eastern Ukraine

- A short history of damaged tractors in Ukrainian: how the conflict in Eastern Ukraine impacted one farm's agricultural production
- Syria in 2020: the deadly legacy of explosive violence and its impact on infrastructure and health
- Explosive weapons and their impacts on pet owners
- The reverberating effects of explosive violence on agriculture in Syria
- The reverberating effects of explosive violence on agriculture in Afghanistan
- The reverberating effects of explosive violence on agriculture in Yemen
- The reverberating effects of explosive violence on agriculture in Iraq
- Explosive weapons and their impact on wildlife - a global assessment

AOAV also produced short videos to highlight some of the key findings in these areas:

- Flora and fauna
- Agriculture
- Infrastructure
- UXO

In our work, the following main findings were established:

- UXO litters conflict zones and results in lasting harm
- UXO contamination last decades
- While the costs of laying landmines is inexpensive, clearance is very costly
- Explosive munitions will typically contain elements such as lead, antimony, uranium, dinitrotoluene, trinitrotoluene, and hexahydro1,-3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (RDX), which can have toxic environmental effects
- Munitions can contaminate drinking water, soil, surface water and air, which can present a greater hazard than the actual explosion and can escalate up the food chain
- UXO leaves local populations exposed to explosive hazards, preventing redevelopment and agricultural work, as well as causing death and injury
- The use of explosive weapons harms agriculture; contaminating the land and displacing farmers and other key workers
- Explosive weapons damage irrigation networks, hampering agricultural efforts
- Explosive weapons can kill livestock directly, force owners to butcher livestock early, force farmers and herders to flee or otherwise interrupt livestock production
- Damage to large livestock infrastructure by explosive weapons can also expose the environment to harmful chemicals
- Explosive weapon use in agricultural land can also cause fires or prevent fire from being put out due to fear of UXO

- Bombardment can force animals into other areas as they flee explosive violence or the consequences of displacement for example.
- In some instances, the human displacement caused by explosive weapons may result in a rise in some animal populations, though this may exacerbate conflict between humans and these animals
- Those displaced by explosive violence often rely on the local environment for resources such as firewood which can also have significant impacts on local environments
- The displacement caused by explosive weapons often results in the abandonment of pets and increases the numbers of stray animals

3. The media and its reporting on explosive violence examined

AOAV published a series of other reports that took evidence from media experts and journalists and examined the relationship between media reporting and explosive violence.

- British media significantly underreporting explosive violence incidents in Afghanistan, review reveals
- Examining the portrayal of female suicide bombers in the media
- The challenges of conflict reporting – when injuries from explosive weapons don't make the news
- Out of sight: British press ignores the continuing horror in Afghanistan
- The representation of the Royal Air Force in the British media

The overriding facts learnt was that the use of explosive weapons against civilians is often not considered prominent enough to make the news. In general we found that:

- Six of nine UK print newspapers reported less than 5% of all incidents over one month, some far less. The Daily Mail print edition reported 0.4% of all incidents.
- The US approach to air-power is marked by:
    - an oftentimes compliant or supportive media;
    - a framing of the enemy as demonic and evil;
    - a justification for the use of heavy force to protect the heart and people of America;
    - an argument that desperate times require desperate measures;
    - a belief in the virtue and capacity of precision weaponry, without acknowledging how imprecise such bombs are; and
    - a framing of any civilians killed in their operations as being the fault of the enemy and not a result of disproportionate tactics.
- That injuries often do not make the news:
    - In 2018, AOAV recorded 953 incidents of explosive violence in Syria, as reported in English language media. These resulted in the death or injury of 9,587 civilians. Of these incidents, though, over 80% (775) of media reports only reported on the deaths of civilians.
    - There are many factors that impact the chances of injuries being recorded alongside deaths following an explosive weapon incident.

- There is often over-reporting of female suicide bomber and and media outlets often compete to view a female perpetrator through a predetermined lens.These range from the type of weapon used, the geographical location, the intensity of a conflict, the capacity of English-language journalists to operate in the area, the perpetrator of the attack (and reporting bias), the type of victims and the dominance of other news on any given day.

4. **UK airstrikes: seeking accountability from the Ministry of Defence**

Under a JRCT funded grant, the UK government has been put under increasing pressure by AOAV and collaborating NGOs to be more transparent when it comes to accountability and transparency in relation to civilian casualties from its airstrikes. As well as a number of very high-profile press reports, extensive behind the scenes lobbying has been carried out by AOAV.

At the beginning of this grant, the RAF contended that they had not killed one civilian casualty in their air operations. By the end of 2019, the Coalition Forces stated that 16 civilians have been killed and at least 6 injured as a consequence of air strikes led by the UK's RAF. In addition, the MOD has acknowledged a civilian casualty reporting unit is possible and desirable. While this process has been dogged by outside diversions (elections, Brexit and Coronavirus), the justification for reform has been established and commitments have been made to ensure such reform occurs. AOAV aims to contribute to any reform process / has expressed a willingness to collaborate with the MOD and others in such a reform process.

The following successes have been notable with regard to the work:

- The convening of meetings to discuss issues relating to civilian casualties from RAF air-strikes
- The publication on AOAV's website of articles examining the UK's air-strike policy, and other articles and interviews that examine the impact of air-strikes:
    - Chatham House meeting on RAF air-strikes and civilian casualties
    - RAF airstrikes in Iraq and Syria: an assessment
    - RAF claims 4,315 enemies killed and injured in Syria and Iraq, with just one civilian casualty
    - UK won't say how many RAF bombs fail to explode – harms manufacturer's 'trade secrets
    - AOAV recommendations to Ministry of Defence on development and implementation of effective casualty recording policies and processes
    - AOAV's summary recommendations to the UK's MOD in relation to air-strikes and casualty recording
    - The duty to investigate civilian deaths in armed conflict: looking beyond criminal investigations
    - Drone strikes in Pakistan followed by increase in suicide attacks, AOAV study finds

- An interview with Janina Dill, Co-Director of the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict
- Drone-warfare and notions of heroism and masculinity in conflict examined
- Dutch government admits airstrike killed up to 70 people in Iraq
- The challenges of conflict reporting – when injuries from explosive weapons don't make the news
- RAF implicated in 16 civilian deaths from airstrikes
- The representation of the Royal Air Force in the British media analysed
- Conflict reporting in the 21st Century: summary report from a conference
- AOAV launches searchable explosive violence database
- Claims by European allies of no civilian harm from airstrikes exposed

Lobbying:

We worked to establish better civilian casualty recording processes and accountability:

- Established a core steering group to lobby RAF over this issue, alongside Save the Children, Airwars, Civic, Every Casualty and Humanity & Inclusion. We meet monthly
- Established an international working group on airstrikes (IWGAS)
- Worked as a core member of the Humanitarian Policy Group, alongside Protection Approaches, Oxfam, Save the Children, Humanity & Inclusion, Jo Cox Foundation, Airwars, Oxford Research Group, Waging Peace, Interaction, Crisis Action, World Vision, War Child, Transparency International and ODI. Participation in this led to the publication of this protecting civilians report
- Convened a Cambridge University Pro-bono legal project to interrogate the UK's legal obligations to gather, record, and make accessible data on civilian deaths in the context of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
- Directly lobbied parliamentary groups, with letters written to their Chairs and face to face briefings with the following APPGs: Human Rights, Explosive Threats, Refugees, Drones, Women, Peace and Security and, in addition, the Defense, Development and Foreign Affairs Committee
- Sat on the advisory committee to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Explosive Threats – a position used to highlight concerns and urge for an inquiry
- Disseminated to MPs the International Parliamentary Appeal to prevent human suffering from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas
- Met with senior civil servant officials at the MOD, FCO and DFID, explaining the concerns and disseminating core recommendations

- Provided written evidence to 'Inquiry into UK Military Operations in Mosul and Raqqa' and 'The Role of Parliament in the UK Constitution: Authorising the Use of Military Force inquiry'
- Wrote letters to Ministers in relation to the development of a Protection of Civilians Strategy: Jeremy Hunt (FCO), Dominic Raab (FCO), Gavin Wiliamson (MOD)
- Briefed Labour, LibDem, SNP, Green and DUP parliamentarians and advisors
- Met with senior military officers, including numerous meetings with Brigadiers and Majors at 77 Brigade
- Highlighted the issue and offered solutions, interventions and lectures at:
    - APPG on Explosive Threats, Houses of Parliament (April 2019)
    - Foreign Press Association (June 2019)
    - Foreign and Commonwealth Office (July 2019)
    - United Nations in Geneva (August 2019)
    - RMA Sandhurst (September 2019)
    - National Army Museum (September 2019)
    - Austrian Government convention to address use of explosive weapons in populated areas (October 2019)
    - United Nations First Committee in New York (October 2019)
    - Conference on gender and explosive weapons at Chatham House (November 2019)
    - York Security Workshop (December 2019)
    - Frontline Club (December 2019)
- AOAV's Executive Director became a 'visiting academic' at the University of Southampton to address civilian harm as part of the International Blast Injuries Research Network
- AOAV's Executive Director sat on the advisory board of Imperial College's NIHR Global Health Research Group on POsT Conflict Trauma (PrOTeCT)
- Engaged with the UK Working Group on Arms (UKWG)
- Amplified our work with AOAV's Executive Director membership of the Global Forum on the Arms Trade
- Briefed the ICRC and other charities on the core issues; our work was cited in David Miliband's Fulbright Lecture
- Pursued a political commitment at the United Nations towards ceasing the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas. This work, as part of our lobbying with the International Network of Explosive Weapons, has led to over 100 States stating that they would not use such weapons in towns or cities.
- The UK's UN Defence Attaché was lobbied in Vienna to sign up to this commitment. Our work was cited in the Secretary General's report on the

protection of civilians. We lobbied the UK government at the UN to join this commitment.

Press articles and reports:

These, (either written by AOAV staff or where AOAV's air-strike work was cited) addressed issues pertaining to opacity, civilian casualties as a result of air-strikes (direct or indirect), and 'propaganda' by the UK military to reduce the contentiousness of civilian casualties:

- A high-profile news story on how many civilians versus militants the RAF claim to have killed: RAF claims 4,315 enemies killed and injured in Syria and Iraq, with just one civilian casualty. According to data released to Action on Armed Violence, the MOD estimated that RAF strikes in Iraq and Syria killed and injured some 4,315 enemy combatants between September 2014 and January 2019. Yet, despite such high numbers of harm, the UK government also claimed to have killed just one civilian throughout its 54 months of engagement in Iraq and Syria
- There was extensive media coverage of this report, including the BBC; Metro; the Telegraph; the Independent; the Guardian; the Mirror; Business Insider, to name just some. The report was also widely cited on Broadcast media. The findings were also picked up by Amnesty and other NGOs
- Suicide bombings rise in aftermath of drone strikes
- Syria and Iraq air campaigns behind huge rise in civilian deaths
- Darkness Descends: Government Suppressing People's Right to Know (AOAV placed op-ed)
- The UK's arming of the Saudis is unlawful, but will a Brexiteering government care? (AOAV placed op-ed)
- Why the Landmine Legacy of Princess Diana Must Address a 21st Century Reality (AOAV placed op-ed)
- Damning Yemen report calls on UK to come clean over arms exports

This body of work has:

- informed the notion of civilian casualties from air-strikes in the current debate about protection of civilians
- contributed to FCO engagement with the MOD on this matter
- contributed to the MOD engaging with the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund and DFID on this issue
- established collecting data on casualties as an achievable MOD objective from a practical perspective

- contributed to Dr Roger Hutton, the MOD Director of International Security, to 'absolutely guarantee' a MOD meeting to discuss the issue in June or early July 2020 and to agree to 'spin-off' meetings of smaller groups from April 2020 on specific issues (e.g. technicalities of civilian casualty recording cell construction, statistics, data etc.)
- pushed MOD to request an additional staff person whose remit would be specifically this area
- helped Lib Dem, Greens, SNP and Labour commit to policy on this issue - stated or intended
- repeatedly provided evidence in the House of Commons about the consequences of airstrikes
- informed the ICRC and the United Nations on the issue, which has – in turn – fed into a wider international political commitment to end the use of explosive weapons in populated areas
- engaged with media reporting on the issue of RAF civilian casualties, highlighting the lack of reporting on the same, and hosted a number of media events inquiring as to best journalistic practice in reporting on this matter. A good indication of the way this debate has been kept alive by AOAV is reading this exchange by the BBC's Defence Correspondent – clearly using AOAV's data and concerns.
- informed University and research debates on this issue.

If a casualty recording unit is created in the MOD – as this process seems to promise – we would be strengthening human rights of victims of explosive violence and contribute to the UK's compliance with its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as accountability for civilian deaths in conflict could be established, as well as proportionality of UK's air strikes. We have, through engaging with APPGs and Select Committees, sought participatory, cross-party collaboration / interest on this matter. We have, in arguing for the cessation of the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas, supported the overall processes of demilitarisation.

Overall, we have challenged militarism by ensuring that the deaths of civilians – and not just foreign militants – is part of the media and political debate about airstrikes. We have shown, for instance in our work that suicide attacks are more likely following an air strike, that counter-terrorism measures in the context of human rights and peacebuilding are often self-defeating. And we have, in placing civilian harm at the front and centre of air-strike rules of engagement, ensured an alternative approach to defence and security is debated and implemented.

OVERVIEW OF FUTURE PLANS FOR 2020

AOAV seeks to continue its crucial research and advocacy work that focuses on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas worldwide, as well as looking more into UK issues of armed violence, militarism and counter-terrorism. In addition, we intend to focus more on issues relating to children and explosive violence and to review the almost ten years of data of explosive violence our monitor has gathered together.

2020 could be a crucial year in the development of a political commitment to cease/avoid the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. We hope that State parties, guided by members of the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), sign to this much needed declaration.

Our future work will continue to be divided into two categories: commercially manufactured weapons and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The humanitarian cost of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas will lead both areas of research.

The competition for funding is, as ever, sharp. AOAV will safeguard its future by ensuring that it responds quickly and flexibly to opportunities as they arise, with hard-hitting, compelling bids.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Action on Armed Violence was established as a charitable trust in 2007, originally called the Landmine Action Charitable Trust. The Trust's name was changed to Action on Armed Violence in 2010. It is also a charitable company. The charity is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company.

Operational Decision-Making

The Board of Trustees, who are also Directors of the charitable company, is responsible for the governance of Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), especially with respect to representation and accountability. These responsibilities include: determining policy and strategy, appointing and overseeing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), monitoring performance, managing the governance process, and providing insight, guidance and wisdom. Management is provided by the CEO working with the staff of the organisation.

Recruitment & Appointment of Board Members

AOAV aims to select Board members in a manner consistent with the organisation's equal opportunities policy. The procedure for recruiting and inducting board members is as follows:

1) Skills required by new Board members are assessed on the basis of gaps within the existing board.
2) Invitations are issued through the national press, existing networks and/or the website, as appropriate.
3) Candidates are short-listed, contacted and interviewed by the Board Chair and CEO.

Procedures for Board member recruitment, election, rotation/re-election and retirement continue to be developed.

Induction & Training of Board Members

New Board members are issued with an induction pack covering AOAV's work and key policies. They meet the CEO and staff to discuss strategy, policy, current and planned activities. All Trustees are invited to attend network and parliamentary meetings and relevant conferences (when time and funding permit).

Risk Management Statement

All procurement and administrative procedures are in place to ensure that authorisation and accountability lines are respected. AOAV's Trustees recognise their collective and individual responsibilities to assess and manage risks which may affect the company in the achievement of its objectives. Internal risks are reduced by the application of appropriate controls to ensure that financial, administrative and operational procedures are effective, thus minimising the risk of financial loss and litigation against the company. All risks are assessed according to their likelihood and potential impact on organisation, and managed accordingly

Public Benefit

The Board of Trustees has complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and has referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing its aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how the planned activities of the company will contribute to achieving the aims and objectives they have set.

Principal Financial Management Policies

Funds received from institutional donors are managed in line with agreed contractual arrangements. The allocation of donations from unrestricted income is decided on the basis of needs identified by AOAV Board of Trustees. Donations derived from non-institutional restricted income are allocated according to the requests of the donors.

Reserves Policy

The majority of AOAV work is funded from restricted funds. The contractual arrangements with donors cover the completion of such tasks and related financial commitments. AOAV retains unrestricted reserves to ensure the longer-term viability of the organization and the sustainability of its programmes against short-term funding shortfalls or emergency funding requirements. The reserves balance is reviewed regularly along with the level of the organization's total incoming and outgoing funds. The Board considers current level of reserves to be adequate. The minimum reserve amount is the cost of running the charity for three months salaries and other running expenses, £38,340. This is kept in reserve. On 31 December 2019, AOAV had £47,156 in unrestricted funds (this includes the reserve).

Financial Position

During 2019 Action on Armed Violence received registered income of £174,435 (2018:156,636). Our major funding source for our research work was the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. The overall expenditure was over £144,979 (2018:193,666). The net income for the year is £29,456 (net expenditure 2018: £37,030).

As at the year-end 31 December 2019 total charity funds stood at £98,116 (2018: £68,660) of which £50,960 were restricted (2018: £25,342).
AOAV renewed its efforts to ensure that funds for its research activities are available on a consistent basis. Our long-term relationship with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues. AOAV will continue to work closely with current and new donors to secure continuing financial support for its work.

Going Concern

The trustees are satisfied that the charity will continue to be a going concern for the foreseeable future.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also directors of AOAV for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 December 2019 was 5 (2018:5). The Trustees are members of the charity. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity and are not remunerated.

Small Company Rules

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed, on behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Olivia Dix - Co-Chair

Date: 27/8/20

Action on Armed Violence
(Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Trustees of Action on Armed Violence

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2019, which are set out on pages 32 to 43.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or

4 the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Shruti Soni FCCA FCIE
Shruti Soni Ltd
117A St Johns Hill
Sevenoaks TN13 3PE
Date 05/09/2020

Action on Armed Violence
(Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure Account)
For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	*Unrestricted Funds £*	*Restricted Funds £*	*Total Funds 2018 £*
Income							
Donations and legacies	3	2,079	-	2,079	*9,679*	-	*9,679*
Charitable activities	4	10,389	161,967	172,356	*26,785*	*117,888*	*144,673*
Other income: Corporation Tax Refund		-	-	-	*2,284*	-	*2,284*
Total income		**12,468**	**161,967**	**174,435**	***38,748***	***117,888***	***156,636***
Expenditure:	5						
Raising funds		4,082	-	4,082	*4,617*	-	*4,617*
Charitable activities		4,548	136,349	140,897	*76,547*	*112,502*	*189,049*
Total expenditure		**8,630**	**136,349**	**144,979**	***81,164***	***112,502***	***193,666***
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains and losses		3,838	25,618	**29,456**	*(42,416)*	*5,386*	***(37,030)***
Gains/(losses) on exchange rate				-			-
Net movement in funds		3,838	25,618	**29,456**	*(42,416)*	*5,386*	***(37,030)***
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		43,318	25,342	68,660	*85,734*	*19,956*	*105,690*
Total funds carried forward		**£ 47,156**	**£ 50,960**	**£ 98,116**	***£ 43,318***	***£ 25,342***	***£ 68,660***

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities complies wiith the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

Action on Armed Violence
(Limited by Guarantee)

Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2019

	Note	£	2019 £	£	2018 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible Assets	8		-		-
Current assets					
Debtors	9	600		9,971	
Cash at bank and in hand		104,611		63,437	
		105,211		73,408	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	10	(7,095)		(4,748)	
Net current assets / (liabilities)			98,116		68,660
Net assets			**£ 98,116**		£ 68,660
The funds of the charity:	13				
Restricted income funds			50,960		25,342
Unrestricted income funds					
General reserve			47,156		43,318
Total charity funds			**£ 98,116**		£ 68,660

The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2019. No member of the charity has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 34 to 43 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board on 27/8/20

Olivia Dix
Trustee
Company Registration No. 06381573
Charity Registration No. 1122057

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019

1 Statutory information

Action on Armed Violence is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales number 06381573 and is registered with the Charity Commission number 1122057. In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The nature of the charitable company's operations and principle activities are to carry out research, advocacy and fieldwork in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

Action on Armed Violence meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). There are no material uncertainties about Action on Armed Violence's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements are presented, to the nearest pound, in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company.

2 Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (September 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been applied consistently to all the years presented unless otherwise stated.

2.2 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income, it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to particular categories of income:

Where donations and grants are restricted to future accounting periods, they are deferred and recognised in those future accounting periods. Grants for immediate financial support and assistance, or to reimburse costs previously incurred, are recognised immediately.

The charitable company receives government grants in respect of furthering its charitable objectives. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value.

Charitable activities includes commissioned work carried out by Action on Armed Violence staff and is recognised in the period along with other income.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are to be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds are to be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charitable company. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2.3 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis with the irrecoverable element of VAT included with the item to which it relates and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to third parties, it is probable and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative and payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charitable company. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities on a basis constistent with the use of resources. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the running of the charitable company and compliance with consititutional and statutory requirements.

Analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

2.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

The charitable company operates a policy of capitalising fixed asset items over £1,000. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Furniture and equipment	4 years, on a straight line basis

2.5 Leasing commitments

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

2.6 Debtors and Creditors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably, after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2.7 Foreign currency

The charitable company no longer operates foreign currency bank accounts.

2.8 Pensions

The charitable company now operates an Auto Enrolment defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they are incurred.

2.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments. The trustees seek to use short term deposits to maximise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

The charitable company does not have a material holding in complex financial instruments.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019: *continued*

3 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2019 £
Donations	2,079	-	2,079
	2,079	**-**	**2,079**
Prior year comparatives: 2018			***2018 £***
Donations	*2,179*	*-*	*2,179*
The Rothera Charitable Settlement	*7,500*	*-*	*7,500*
	9,679	***-***	***9,679***

4 Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2019 £
UK			
Research:			
Norwegian Funding Article 36	-	99,711	99,711
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	51,188	51,188
EU Funds (Lot12)	4,798	-	4,798
Australian High Commission		11,068	11,068
Other	5,591	-	5,591
	10,389	**161,967**	**172,356**
Prior year comparatives: 2018			***2018 £***
UK			
Research:			
Norwegian Funding Article 36	*-*	*71,481*	*71,481*
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	*-*	*46,407*	*46,407*
EU Funds (Lot12)	*23,345*	*-*	*23,345*
Other	*3,440*	*-*	*3,440*
	26,785	***117,888***	***144,673***

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019: continued

5 Analysis of expenditure

	Cost of raising funds	Charitable activities - Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	4,037	96,792	3,364	-	**104,193**
Research and reports	-	7,860	-	-	**7,860**
Travel	-	10,917	-	-	**10,917**
Office costs	45	11,053	375	-	**11,473**
Communications	-	2,502	122	-	**2,624**
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	3,910	**3,910**
Grant audit and independent examination	-	-	2,230	-	**2,230**
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	**-**
Other	-	1,772	-	-	**1,772**
	4,082	130,896	6,091	3,910	**144,979**
Support costs		3,910		(3,910)	**-**
Governance costs		6,091	(6,091)		**-**
Total expenditure 2019	**4,082**	**140,897**	**-**	**-**	**144,979**
Total expenditure 2018	4,617	*189,049*	-	-	*193,666*

Of the total expenditure:	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
2019	£ 8,630	£ 136,349	£ 144,979
2018	£ 81,164	£ 112,502	£ 193,666

Prior year comparatives: 2018	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	*4,542*	*125,375*	*3,785*	-	***133,702***
Research and reports	-	*21,548*	-	-	***21,548***
Travel	-	*14,163*	-	-	***14,163***
Office costs	*75*	*9,357*	*362*	-	***9,794***
Communications	-	*3,774*	*189*	-	***3,963***
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	*5,108*	***5,108***
Grant audit and independent examination	-	-	*3,300*	-	***3,300***
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	**-**
Other	-	*1,428*	-	*660*	***2,088***
	4,617	*175,644*	*7,637*	*5,768*	***193,666***
Support costs		*5,768*		*(5,768)*	**-**
Governance costs		*7,637*	*(7,637)*		**-**
Total expenditure 2018	***4,617***	***189,049***	**-**	**-**	***193,666***

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019: continued

6 Net income for the year

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	2019 £	2018 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets owned by the Charity	-	-
Independent Examination	1,200	1,200

7 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:	2019 £	2018 £
Salaries and wages	92,342	121,388
Social Security costs	6,781	9,982
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	5,070	3,575
Refund of overpaid pension contribution in previous years	-	(1,243)
	104,193	133,702

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2019	2018
Charitable activities	3	3

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

The key management personnel of the charitable company included the Trustees and Chief Executive Officer. Total employee benefits paid to key management personnel including NIC and pension were £67,284 in 2019 (2018: £63,087).

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and Equipment £	Total £
Cost:		
At 1 January 2019	825	825
Disposals		-
Additions at cost	-	-
At 31 December 2019	**825**	**825**
Depreciation:		
At 1 January 2019	825	825
Charge for year	-	-
On disposals		-
At 31 December 2019	**825**	**825**
Net book value:	-	-
At 31 December 2019	**-**	**-**
At 31 December 2018	-	-

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019: continued

9 Debtors

Due within one year:	**2019**	***2018***
	£	***£***
VAT receivable	-	*0*
Other debtors	600	*670*
Prepayments and accrued income	-	*9,301*
	600	*9,971*

10 Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:

	2019	***2018***
	£	***£***
Trade creditors	2,666	*450*
Social Security and other taxes	-	*0*
Other creditors	-	*914*
Accruals and deferred income	4,429	*3,384*
	7,095	*4,748*

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	**Restricted Funds**	**Total Funds**
	£	**£**	**£**
Fund Balances at 31 December 2019 are represented by:			
Current Assets	51,585	53,626	105,211
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(4,429)	(2,666)	(7,095)
Total net assets	**47,156**	**50,960**	**98,116**

12 Analysis of net assets between funds - comparative 2018

	Unrestricted Funds	***Restricted Funds***	***Total Funds***
	£	***£***	***£***
Fund Balances at 31 December 2018 are represented by:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	*47,616*	*25,792*	*73,408*
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	*(4,298)* -	*450*	*(4,748)*
Total net assets	***43,318***	***25,342***	***68,660***

13 Funds - current year

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	At 01-Jan 2019	Incoming	Outgoing	At 31-Dec 2019
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds				
Norwegian Funding 2018/19	20,397	-	(20,397)	-
Norwegian Funding 2019/20	-	99,711	(63,055)	**36,656**
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Air Strikes	4,945	34,011	(32,771)	**6,185**
Rowntree 19/20	-	17,177	(9,058)	**8,119**
Australian High Commission	-	11,068	(11,068)	-
Total Restricted Funds	**25,342**	**161,967**	**(136,349)**	**50,960**
Unrestricted funds: General funds	**43,318**	**12,468**	**(8,630)**	**47,156**
Total funds	**68,660**	**174,435**	**(144,979)**	**98,116**

Restricted Funds - description

Norweigan Funding; funding as part of a consortium bid to Norwegian People's Aid.
For AOAV it includes:
1. Monitoring and data collection for the Global Explosive Weapons Monitor
2. A research report on the reverberating effects of explosive weapons
3. A global improvised explosive device (IED) review publication
4. A process of mapping counter IED work

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
Funding over a one year period to undertake an impartial, wide-ranging, thorough and in-depth investigation in order to uncover the hidden networks and relationships which have facilitated and sustained the trade in arms between the UK and multiple repressive regimes since 2010.

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Air Strikes
Funding over two years to intergate RAF rules of engagement and protection of civilians in air strikes.

Australian High Commission
Explosive violence and gender: an Australian government funded symposium under the International Development Fund (IDF)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019: continued

14 Funds - prior year comparative

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	At 01-Jan 2018	*Incoming*	*Outgoing*	*At 31-Dec 2018*
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds				
Norwegian Funding 2017/18	*19,956*	*-*	*(19,956)*	*-*
Norwegian Funding 2018/19	*-*	*71,481*	*(51,084)*	*20,397*
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Arms Trade	*-*	*25,080*	*(25,080)*	*-*
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Air Strikes	*-*	*21,327*	*(16,382)*	*4,945*
Total Restricted Funds	*19,956*	*117,888*	*(112,502)*	*25,342*
Unrestricted funds:				
General funds	*85,734*	*38,748*	*(81,164)*	*43,318*
Total funds	*105,690*	*156,636*	*(193,666)*	*68,660*

15 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

	Property	**2019**	*2018*
		£	£
Less than one year		2,400	*2,400*
One to five years		-	*-*
		2,400	*2,400*

16 Related parties

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2019 (2018: none).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

17 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any person connected with them) received any remunerations from the charity during the year. No reimbursements were made to trustees in 2019 (2018: nil) for travelling and other expenses and no payments were made direct to third parties.

18 Pension and other post-retirement benefit commitments

Defined contribution

	2019	*2018*
	£	£
Contributions payable by the company for the year	5,070	*3,575*

At 31 December 2019 £nil was outstanding (2018: £nil)

19 Contingent assets or liabilities

There are no contingent assets or liabilities at December 2019 (2018:Nil).

20 Ultimate controlling party

The charitable company was under the control of the Trustees during the period under review. There is no single ultimate controlling party.