ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE
ANNUAL REPORT
2025

Action on Armed Violence
(Limited by Guarantee)

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Legal and Administrative Information

Board	Olivia Dix (Co-Chair) Dr Saleyha Ahsan Professor Ismene-Theodora Gizelis Professor Mike Spagat (appointed December 2025) Martin Butcher (appointed December 2025 Mira Naseer (appointed December 2025) Rocco Faustus Blume (Co-Chair 2025, resigned April 2026) Dr Jack Denny (resigned March 2026) Leanna Burnard (resigned December 2025) Andrew Maber-Jones (resigned April 2025)
Executive Director	Dr Iain Overton
Principal Office (2025)	405 Mile End Road London E3 4PB
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Company Number **Charity Number**	06381573 1122057
Independent Examiner	Shruti Soni Shruti Soni Limited 117A St Johns Hill Sevenoaks TN13 3PL
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CHAIR'S REPORT

We are pleased to present the Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) Annual Report for 2025. The year combined unusually high output and international visibility with the persistent vulnerability of operating a small organisation in a field where the demands on evidence, advocacy and public accountability continued to grow.

Across Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar and other conflicts, civilians remained exposed to explosive weapons in towns and cities. AOAV's response was the same disciplined work that has defined the organisation for more than a decade: recording harm, testing official claims against evidence and making that evidence available to journalists, researchers, diplomats and campaigners.

The Explosive Violence Monitor remained central to this work. Monthly and weekly reporting tracked civilian harm while the team also supplied data to external organisations including Interpol, United Nations actors, Humanity & Inclusion, the Danish Refugee Council, Save the Children and Reuters. AOAV took its findings into international policy forums, including the Convention on Conventional Weapons in Geneva and the second conference of the Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas in San José, Costa Rica.

The year also saw AOAV deepen its scrutiny of the institutions and industries that shape modern conflict. Reporting examined alleged unlawful killings and failures of accountability within UK Special Forces, weaknesses in military justice, the Ministry of Defence's declining transparency, RAF surveillance over Gaza, the revolving door between Whitehall and defence companies, arms exports to Israel, the growth of algorithmic warfare and the political influence of the arms industry.

AOAV's work extended beyond state violence. The Global Mass Shooting Database passed 4,000 recorded incidents by the end of the year, with 64 volunteers having contributed to the project. Voice Notes from Palestine, the film documenting the experiences of disabled students in Gaza, continued to reach universities and festivals and received an award in San Francisco. These projects reflect a consistent principle: people affected by armed violence should not merely appear as aggregate numbers. Their experiences should also shape how violence is understood.

Core operations were carried by two staff, supported by Jennifer Dathan as a consultant and a wider volunteer network. Yet AOAV published well over 100 investigations and analyses during the year and continued to attract substantial media and policy attention.

Financially, AOAV entered 2026 in a stable but exposed position. Core funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust continued through 2025 and the Swiss government has agreed at the end of the year to support the Explosive Violence Monitor for the following two years.

The Board records its thanks to AOAV's small and dedicated staff, consultant, volunteers, partners and funders.

Olivia Dix, Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2025 was a year of high output, international reach and clear cause for concern given rising militarism and global threats for Action on Armed Violence. AOAV published well over 100 investigations and analyses, grew its global datasets, contributed to international advocacy and continued to document the human cost of armed violence with a consistency made possible only by a very small core team and a large amount of volunteer effort.

The Explosive Violence Monitor remained the organisation's principal evidence base. Through monthly reports, country updates and rapid analysis of mass-casualty incidents, AOAV followed harm in Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, Sudan and other conflict settings. The 2024 annual Monitor report, published in May 2025, documented the highest civilian casualty levels since AOAV began systematic monitoring in 2010. During 2025 the Monitor also generated a decade-long analysis of improvised explosive devices and supported work on the relationship between UK arms sales and states using explosive weapons in populated areas.

The value of that work lies in use. AOAV data were requested by a range of external stakeholders, including Interpol, UN actors, Humanity & Inclusion, the Danish Refugee Council, Save the Children and Reuters.

Military accountability became a second major strand. AOAV followed evidence emerging from the Afghanistan Inquiry, including testimony alleging unlawful killings, fabricated accounts and the suppression of dissent within UK Special Forces. The organisation examined weaknesses in the Royal Military Police and wider military justice system, the Ministry of Defence's use of secrecy and injunctions, failures of record-keeping, sexual misconduct and misogyny in the armed forces, and the handling of historic civilian deaths in Iraq. The cumulative argument was not that every failure has the same cause, but that secrecy and weak independent oversight repeatedly make accountability harder.

AOAV also sharpened its focus on the political economy of militarism. Reporting tracked the relationship between defence companies and Westminster, the revolving door between public service and the arms industry, the expansion of public-private defence partnerships, continued controversy over F-35 components and other arms transfers to Israel, and the rapid growth of military applications of artificial intelligence. Work on algorithms, autonomous systems and AI-assisted targeting asked a simple question: if decision-making becomes faster and less transparent, what mechanisms will preserve human judgement and legal accountability?

Alongside these investigations, AOAV continued to frame armed violence as a public-health issue. The Global Mass Shooting Database expanded beyond 4,000 incidents and drew on the work of 64 volunteers. Research considered firearm licensing, homicide and suicide, gun trafficking in the Caribbean and the wider social conditions associated with gun violence. This approach is increasingly important because the health consequences of armed harm rarely end when the shooting stops.

Advocacy translated research into policy engagement. AOAV contributed to the INEW Steering Committee and Humanitarian Disarmament Forum, spoke at the CCW in Geneva, attended the Political Declaration conference in Costa Rica, engaged with the FCDO and state delegations, and took part in meetings with parliamentarians, academics, NGOs and health researchers. Public events included work on women and explosive violence, the arms trade, journalists under attack in Gaza and the ethics of military technology.

The organisation ended the year with stronger recognition but continuing financial risk. The Swiss government's commitment for two years protects an important part of the Monitor. JRCT core support continued through 2025, to which we are eternally grateful. In 2026 our task is therefore twofold: protect the quality and independence of AOAV's research, and to continue the financial resilience that allows such work to continue.

Dr Iain Overton, Executive Director

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Board of Trustees is pleased to present its Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2025. The Trustees' Annual Report contains a Directors' Report as required by company law. The final statutory version should be read together with the independently examined financial statements for the year.

MISSION AND APPROACH

Mission

Action on Armed Violence's 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 to strengthen international laws and standards on the availability and use of conventional and improvised weapons, build recognition of the rights of victims and survivors of armed violence, and research, understand and act effectively on the causes and consequences of armed violence in affected countries.

To this end, AOAV is committed to:

- reducing civilian harm from the use of explosive weapons, particularly in populated areas, and securing international support for stronger protection of civilians;
- reducing the impact of improvised explosive devices on civilian populations by documenting their use and advocating for effective international responses;
- addressing the impact of small arms and light weapons on civilians, with a focus on state abuse, gun massacres, firearm regulation and illicit or poorly controlled arms flows;
- recording harm from explosive violence and gun violence in order to support evidence-based advocacy and public policy;
- examining the systems of military accountability, arms trading, political influence and technological change that can enable or obscure civilian harm.

AOAV seeks to reach these goals by increasing public and political awareness through targeted research; providing evidence on legal and humanitarian responsibilities; publishing practical policy recommendations; and fostering dialogue among governmental, military, academic, media and civil-society actors.

Key Reports and Research

Global Explosive Violence Monitoring

The Explosive Violence Monitor remained AOAV's most continuous body of evidence in 2025. The team produced regular monthly reports and maintained rolling updates on Ukraine and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, while also responding to mass-casualty incidents in locations including Myanmar, Yemen and Sudan. The Monitor's purpose was not simply to count events. It was to provide a comparable record of how explosive weapons affect civilians and how that harm changes across geography, weapon type and time.

The 2024 annual Monitor report was published on 22 May 2025 and launched publicly on 30 May. It recorded 61,353 civilians killed or injured by explosive weapons in 2024, a 67% year-on-year increase and the highest civilian casualty level since AOAV's monitoring began. During 2025, AOAV used those findings to inform international discussions and to strengthen the methodology and presentation of the Monitor.

In 2025, AOAV recorded 49,814 deaths and injuries as a result of the use of explosive weapons around the world, the second-highest levels recorded since 2010. With 45,362 civilians among these casualties – 91% of all those reported killed or wounded by explosive weapons globally – 2025 was the second most injurious year for civilians since the EVMP began. 39% (17,614) of these civilians were reported killed. Last year, global incidents of explosive weapons use fell by 18%, alongside a 9% fall in civilian casualties and a 27% fall in civilian fatalities compared to 2024.

AOAV has documented this for over a decade, consistently demonstrating that the threat explosive weapons pose to civilians is exacerbated when used in populated areas. In 2025, 96% of all those reported killed and injured by explosive weapons in populated areas such as towns and cities were civilians. The majority of all global civilian casualties from explosive violence – some 97% – occurred in such populated areas. While 2025

saw an overall decrease in civilian casualties and incidents of explosive violence, high levels of civilian harm persisted. Israel's continued military operations in Gaza and the West Bank, the escalation of civil war in Sudan, and the ongoing conflict in Myanmar all contributed significantly to civilian casualties.

IEDs and the international protection agenda

AOAV drew on a decade of data to produce IEDs: A Decade of Harm - Trends, Themes and Global Patterns, covering 2015 to 2024. In September, Niamh Gillen presented the findings at the annual meeting of the Convention on Conventional Weapons Amended Protocol II at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The analysis examined changing IED tactics, geographic patterns and their continuing civilian consequences.

In November, AOAV attended the second conference of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas in San José. AOAV delivered a statement on harm reduction through data collection and sharing, participated in the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) Steering Committee and Protection Forum, and used the meeting to discuss the future application and funding of the Monitor with states and NGOs.

UK military accountability and the Afghanistan Inquiry

AOAV's 2025 reporting on the UK defence establishment documented recurring failures of accountability. Investigations examined allegations emerging from the Afghanistan Inquiry, including testimony from Special Forces personnel describing unlawful killings, implausible kill counts, fabricated evidence and pressure on those who raised concerns. AOAV also followed allegations that legal and institutional mechanisms had been used to frustrate scrutiny.

This work was widened beyond Afghanistan. Reports examined the independence of the Royal Military Police, weaknesses in the Service Prosecuting Authority, the use of secrecy in military inquiries, the treatment of whistleblowers and the continuing problem of low confidence in military justice. AOAV also returned to historic cases in Iraq and examined how failings in detention, investigation and institutional learning continued to shape present debates.

The organisation's reporting on military welfare and culture included the Lariam record-keeping scandal (the MoD's failure to properly document which service personnel were given the controversial antimalarial drug), veteran exposure to asbestos and other hazards, sexual misconduct, misogyny and harassment in the armed forces, and the Jaysley Beck case. Together, these strands argued that accountability encompasses both civilian harm overseas and the state's duty of care towards its own personnel.

The Ministry of Defence and secrecy

Our report *The Fog of Secrecy* examined the Ministry of Defence's deteriorating Freedom of Information performance and the routine use of national-security arguments to restrict scrutiny. AOAV reported on fragmented data systems, delayed disclosures, closed inquiry sessions and internal processes that could elevate reputational concerns over the public interest. Later in the year, reporting on a super-injunction connected to an Afghan data breach reinforced concerns about the scale of information that can be withheld from public debate.

RAF surveillance flights over Gaza became a prominent example. AOAV documented more than 500 surveillance flights over or near Gaza from RAF Akrotiri and repeatedly questioned the absence of sufficient public information about how intelligence was shared and what safeguards governed its use. Later reporting examined the Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence's own safeguards and the legal and ethical risks arising from intelligence cooperation during a conflict marked by extensive civilian harm.

Arms trade, industry influence and public policy

AOAV continued to follow the relationship between the arms industry and government. Reports examined defence-sector lobbying, parliamentary influence, the movement of former ministers and officials into private defence roles, and the growing presentation of arms production as an engine of industrial and economic policy.

A series of investigations focused on UK and European arms transfers to Israel, including the continuing controversy over F-35 components and the role of Israeli defence companies in the UK market. AOAV also published *Exporting Risk*, examining the overlap between UK arms exports and countries using explosive

weapons in populated areas. By the end of the year, volunteer research had added work on European arms-export licences to Israel and on gaps in British firearm-licensing data.

Scrutiny of the defence industry matters not simply because weapons are commercial products, but because decisions about their manufacture, sale and transfer are often made through relationships that receive limited public attention despite potentially serious consequences for civilians. This is particularly important where arms are supplied to parties engaged in conflicts involving extensive civilian harm, as in the debate over UK arms transfers to Israel. Whatever view is taken of the policy itself, questions about licensing, political influence, transparency and the safeguards governing those transfers are legitimate matters of public interest. AOAV therefore examined the increasingly close relationship between government and the defence industry, including the Defence Industrial Joint Committee, the movement of officials between public service and defence companies, and the role of industry in Westminster. AOAV reported that defence firms provided almost £180,000 to All-Party Parliamentary Groups. The purpose of this work was not to argue that cooperation between government and industry is inherently improper, but to examine whether decisions carrying significant humanitarian and public-policy consequences are subject to adequate transparency, scrutiny and democratic accountability.**AI, autonomous systems and the changing character of warfare**

AOAV's technology reporting addressed the rapid normalisation of artificial intelligence in defence. Work examined the UK's defence AI doctrine, investment in companies such as Anduril, algorithmic warfare, autonomous systems and the ethical problems created when opaque models contribute to targeting decisions. Later in the year AOAV considered Israel's reported use of AI-assisted targeting systems, including the "Lavender" model, as well as British experiments with algorithmic warfare.

The central concern was accountability. Faster decision-making may offer operational advantages, but systems that are difficult to explain can make proportionality assessments, attribution of responsibility and post-strike review harder. AOAV's reporting argued that technological novelty cannot be allowed to outpace humanitarian safeguards.

Global Mass Shooting Database and gun violence

The *Global Mass Shooting Database* became one of AOAV's largest volunteer-supported projects. By the 2025 AGM it had surpassed 4,000 recorded incidents, with 64 volunteers having contributed. Early analysis identified commercial premises as the most common attack setting and handguns as the most frequently identified weapon type.

The project formed part of a wider effort to treat firearm harm as a global public-health issue rather than a problem confined to a single country. AOAV also published work on firearm licensing in Britain and Canada, gun trafficking and public health in the Caribbean, homicide and suicide, and the relationship between violence and wider social conditions.

Voice Notes from Palestine and testimony from conflict

Voice Notes from Palestine continued to bring the experiences of disabled Palestinian students to audiences outside Gaza. The film, directed by Amal Al-Agroobi and developed from a storytelling project with students at the Islamic University of Gaza, was screened at universities and festivals, including events in Cambridge, Stockholm and Edinburgh. More than 30 further screening requests were pending during the year, and the film later received an award in San Francisco.

AOAV also continued to publish testimony and ethnographic work from conflict-affected communities, including research from north-eastern Syria on life under drone surveillance and reporting from Basra on civilian families killed during British operations. These projects complemented AOAV's quantitative work by preserving the experience behind the data.

Conflict, civic space and the politics of violence

AOAV reported on the contraction of civic and humanitarian space alongside armed conflict. Work considered the proscription of Palestine Action and the use of terrorism law against protest, the targeting of journalists in Gaza, the conditions facing Syrians considering return after the fall of Assad, and the militarisation of borders and foreign policy.

A London panel in September brought together reporters Wael al-Dahdouh, Ramita Navai and Jon Williams to discuss the killing and targeting of journalists in Gaza and the responsibilities of Western media.

Other research examined the growth of misogyny and extremist ideology within the armed forces and the wider normalisation of violent rhetoric in political life.

AOAV's scrutiny of the defence industry reflects a broader understanding of how armed violence occurs. Civilian harm does not begin only when a weapon is fired. It is also shaped by earlier decisions about which weapons are developed and purchased, which governments and armed forces receive them, what safeguards accompany their transfer, and how political and commercial interests influence those choices. Examining these processes helps identify where responsibility lies before, as well as after, violence occurs.

This does not mean treating the defence industry, or the legitimate requirements of national defence, as inherently suspect. It means recognising that an industry whose products can cause profound civilian harm warrants a correspondingly high level of transparency and public accountability. Questions about arms exports, procurement, lobbying, the movement of officials between government and industry, and the financing of military technology are therefore relevant to AOAV where they affect the development, availability or use of weapons, or the ability of the public and Parliament to scrutinise those decisions.

This is particularly important where governments are supplying weapons to parties engaged in conflicts in which civilian casualties are extensive or where compliance with international humanitarian law is contested. In such circumstances, scrutiny of licensing, end-use controls, procurement relationships and political influence is not principally an argument for or against a particular defence policy. It is an attempt to establish what decisions were taken, on what evidence, subject to what safeguards, and with what consequences for civilians. In this sense, AOAV's work on the defence industry is an extension of its central concern with civilian protection, evidence and accountability.

Advocacy

In 2025 AOAV continued to act as a bridge between evidence and policy. The organisation's advocacy was deliberately linked to research outputs rather than separated from them.

At international level, AOAV contributed to the INEW Steering Committee and Humanitarian Disarmament Forum, presented IED findings at the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in Geneva, and participated in the Political Declaration conference in Costa Rica. Staff engaged with state delegations including Switzerland and Australia, with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and with humanitarian organisations interested in the operational use of explosive-violence data.

In the UK, AOAV engaged with parliamentarians, civil-society groups and officials on Special Forces oversight, arms exports, explosive weapons and civilian protection. The organisation joined calls concerning the Ottawa Mine Ban Convention, contributed to discussions on the Strategic Defence Review, and hosted or supported public events on the arms trade, women and explosive violence, war reporting and journalists under attack.

The "*Women Under Fire*" workshop in January, co-organised with the University of Essex, examined the gendered patterns of harm caused by explosive weapons. Participants discussed gender-disaggregated casualty recording, the relationship between arms transfers and violence against women and the need to understand so-called indiscriminate attacks through the spaces and social roles that shape exposure to harm.

AOAV also sustained relationships with academic and public-health partners, including work linked to the Lancet Commission on Global Gun Violence, Imperial College projects on blast injury and other research networks. This helped connect conventional arms-control advocacy with a wider public-health understanding of armed harm.

Media Coverage

AOAV's research received substantial national and international media attention in 2025. The 2024 Explosive Violence Monitor findings were covered in January by The Guardian and a wide range of international outlets. Later work on military accountability, arms transfers and Gaza appeared in outlets including CNN, The Independent, Al Jazeera, Byline Times, Anadolu Ajansı, The Canary and other international and specialist publications.

Media use of AOAV data was not confined to publication-day coverage. Journalists repeatedly approached the organisation for underlying datasets and methodological support.

The Executive Director continued to contribute expert commentary, panels and public discussions on civilian casualty recording, the arms trade, military accountability, war reporting and gun violence. Mailchimp bulletins and regular social-media updates further distributed AOAV's research to specialist and public audiences.

Looking Ahead to 2026 and Beyond

The central challenge for 2026 is to protect the quality of AOAV's evidence while increasing its utility and financial resilience. The Explosive Violence Monitor has become a resource used by journalists, governments, researchers and humanitarian organisations.

AOAV will continue to scrutinise the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the performance of states that have endorsed the 2022 Political Declaration. It will also deepen work on AI-assisted warfare, military accountability, the arms industry and firearm harm as a public-health problem. The Global Mass Shooting Database offers a significant opportunity to connect original data with comparative research and policy interventions.

Financial resilience remains the immediate organisational constraint. At the end of 2025 Switzerland agreed to continue to support the Monitor. JRCT remained the organisation's principal core funder during 2025, but a new application was required in 2026. Management forecasts presented to the Board made clear that AOAV still needed a third funding strand to avoid drawing down reserves over the medium term.

The strategic principle remains unchanged: AOAV's credibility rests on independence, transparent methods and a willingness to follow evidence into politically difficult areas. A small organisation cannot investigate everything. It can, however, choose issues where rigorous documentation can alter the terms of debate. That will remain the basis of AOAV's work in 2026.

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 establish 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 AOAV, especially with respect to representation and accountability. These responsibilities include determining policy and strategy, appointing and overseeing the Executive Director, monitoring performance, managing the governance process and providing guidance. Day-to-day management is provided by the Executive Director working with the staff of the organisation.

Recruitment and Appointment of Board Members

AOAV aims to select Board members in a manner consistent with the organisation's equal-opportunities policy. Skills required by new Board members are assessed against gaps within the existing Board. Candidates may be sought through public advertising, existing networks and the organisation's website, and are shortlisted and interviewed by the Co-Chairs and Executive Director. Procedures for recruitment, election, rotation, re-election and retirement remain subject to the charity's governing documents and Board decisions.

Induction and Training of Board Members

New Board members receive an induction pack covering AOAV's work and key policies and meet the Executive Director and staff to discuss strategy, policy and planned activities. Trustees may attend relevant network, parliamentary and conference meetings when time and funding permit.

Directors who served during 2025

During the period, Professor Mike Spagat, Martin Butcher and Mira Naseer were appointed as trustees in December 2025, while Andrew Maber-Jones resigned in April 2025, Leanna Burnard in December 2025, Dr Jack Denny in March 2026, and Rocco Faustus Blume in April 2026; Olivia Dix remains as the sole Chair alongside Dr Saleyha Ahsan and Professor Ismene-Theodora Gizelis.

Risk Management Statement

AOAV's Trustees recognise their collective and individual responsibilities to assess and manage risks that may affect the charity in achieving its objectives. Procurement and administrative procedures are intended to preserve clear lines of authorisation and accountability. Internal risks are mitigated through controls over financial, administrative and operational processes, with risks assessed according to their likelihood and potential impact.

The Board identified funding concentration as a principal strategic risk. Although AOAV entered 2026 in a stable position and secured two further years of Swiss support for the Explosive Violence Monitor, the organisation remained dependent on a small number of donors.

Operational risk also arises from the breadth and sensitivity of AOAV's work. Investigations concern conflict, alleged war crimes, military secrecy and politically contested claims. This requires careful sourcing, legal awareness, secure information handling and clear editorial processes.

Public Benefit

The Board of Trustees has regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing AOAV's aims, objectives and planned activities. AOAV's public benefit lies principally in producing and disseminating evidence intended to reduce civilian harm, strengthen accountability, improve public understanding of armed violence and support better policy and practice among governments, international bodies, civil society and the media. In 2025, this required looking beyond the battlefield itself. Decisions about which weapons are developed, purchased, exported and supplied, and under what safeguards, are often taken through relationships between governments, armed forces, defence companies, technology firms and investors. Where those relationships lack transparency or adequate public scrutiny, there is a greater risk that decisions with potentially grave consequences for civilians are made without sufficient examination of their legality, necessity or likely humanitarian impact. The controversy surrounding arms transfers to conflicts in which civilians are suffering heavily illustrates why scrutiny of these systems matters regardless of one's position on the underlying political or military questions.

AOAV therefore examined the institutions, commercial interests and policy structures that shape contemporary armed violence, including arms exports, military procurement, autonomous weapons, defence-industry influence, investment, transparency and the recording of civilian harm. This work is not concerned with the defence industry for its own sake. It follows the chain of decisions that ultimately determines what weapons reach conflicts, the conditions under which they are used and the safeguards intended to protect civilians. By producing independent research and placing that evidence in the public domain, AOAV seeks to make those systems more visible and accountable.

In doing so, it aims to strengthen informed democratic scrutiny of defence and security policy while ensuring that the protection and experience of civilians remain central to decisions about the development, financing, transfer and use of military force.

Principal Financial Management Policies

Funds received from institutional donors are managed in line with agreed contractual arrangements. The allocation of unrestricted donations is decided on the basis of needs identified by the Board of Trustees. Restricted income is used for the purposes specified by the relevant donor or grant agreement.

Reserves Policy

AOAV maintains unrestricted reserves to provide financial resilience against short-term funding gaps, unforeseen expenditure and other operational contingencies. In its last Annual Report, the Board stated that it sought to maintain general unrestricted reserves equivalent to approximately three months of operating costs, then estimated at £45,000. The Trustees reviewed the organisation's reserves position during 2025 and, at 31 December 2025, AOAV held unrestricted reserves of £42,869 and restricted reserves of £46,273. The Board continues to keep the appropriate level of reserves under review in light of the charity's anticipated expenditure, funding commitments and financial risks.

Financial Performance Review

The 2025 accounts show that AOAV remained solvent at the year end, although its financial position weakened during the year. Total income was £154,593, compared with £192,422 in 2024, while total expenditure was £164,651, compared with £185,085. This produced a net deficit of £10,058, reversing the £7,337 surplus recorded in 2024. Total funds consequently fell from £99,200 at the beginning of the year to £89,142 at 31 December 2025. AOAV received £147,199 from charitable activities during 2025. This comprised £74,000 from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, £34,951 from the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, £25,509 from NORAD, £5,000 from the Edith Maud Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust, £1,709 from the University of Bristol and £6,030 from other charitable activities, with £4,610 from Other Income.

A further £2,107 was received in donations and £677 in interest income. The accounts show a substantial reduction in restricted grant income compared with the previous year. Restricted income was £67,169 in 2025,

against £114,287 in 2024, while unrestricted income increased from £78,135 to £87,424. Restricted expenditure was £70,606 and unrestricted expenditure £94,045. The resulting deficits were £3,437 on restricted funds and £6,621 on unrestricted funds.

At 31 December 2025, AOAV held £84,082 in cash at bank and in hand, down from £99,946 at the end of 2024. Debtors stood at £9,653 and creditors falling due within one year at £6,391. Including tangible fixed assets of £1,798, net assets amounted to £89,142. Of these year-end funds, £46,273 were restricted and £42,869 were unrestricted general reserves. Restricted balances included £31,434 of ring-fenced Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust funding, £11,389 from the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs and £3,450 from the Edith Maud Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust. The accounts state that there were no material uncertainties about AOAV's ability to continue as a going concern.

The financial position nevertheless reinforces the Board's concern about the organisation's dependence on a relatively small number of major funders. Income fell by £37,829, or about 20%, between 2024 and 2025, and reserves were drawn down by £10,058. The strategic priority for 2026 is therefore to preserve programme quality while broadening the donor base, securing additional substantial funding and protecting unrestricted reserves.

Financial figures from the 2025 accounts

Measure	2024	2025
Cash at bank and in hand	£99,946	£84,082
Total income	£192,422	£154,593
Total expenditure	£185,085	£164,651
Net income/(expenditure)	£7,337	**(£10,058)**
Unrestricted funds	£49,490	£42,869
Restricted funds	£49,710	£46,273
Total funds/net assets	£99,200	£89,142

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the Independent Examiner is unaware.
- That each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

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 2025 was 8 (2024:6). The Trustees are members of the charity. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity and are not remunerated.

Signed, on behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Olivia Dix 25th September 2026

Olivia Dix
Chair

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 2025, which are set out on pages 16-26.

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

Shruti Soni FCCA
Shruti Soni Ltd
117A St Johns Hill
Sevenoaks TN13 3PL
Date 28th September 2026

Action on Armed Violence
(Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure Account)
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Income	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	*Unrestricted Funds £*	*Restricted Funds £*	*Total Funds 2024 £*
Donations and legacies	**3**	2,107	-	2,107	*2,197*	*-*	*2,197*
Charitable activities	**4**	80,030	67,169	147,199	*75,718*	*114,287*	*190,005*
Interest income		677	-	677	*220*	*-*	*220*
Other Income		4,610	-	4,610			
Total income		**87,424**	**67,169**	**154,593**	***78,135***	***114,287***	***192,422***
Expenditure:	**5**						
Raising funds		5,692	-	5,692	*5,757*	*-*	*5,757*
Charitable activities		88,353	70,606	158,959	*80,895*	*98,433*	*179,328*
Total expenditure		**94,045**	**70,606**	**164,651**	***86,652***	***98,433***	***185,085***
Net income/(expenditure)		(6,621)	(3,437)	**(10,058)**	*(8,517)*	*15,854*	***7,337***
Transfer between funds		-	-	**-**	*(507)*	*507*	**-**
Net movement in funds		(6,621)	(3,437)	**(10,058)**	*(9,024)*	*16,361*	***7,337***
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		49,490	49,710	99,200	*58,514*	*33,349*	*91,863*
Total funds carried forward		**£ 42,869**	**£ 46,273**	**£ 89,142**	***£ 49,490***	***£ 49,710***	***£ 99,200***

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 2025

	Note	2025		*2024*	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible Assets	**8**		1,798		*2,398*
Current assets					
Debtors	**9**	9,653		*7,980*	
Cash at bank and in hand		84,082		*99,946*	
		93,735		*107,926*	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	**10**	(6,391)		*(11,124)*	
Net current assets / (liabilities)			87,344		*96,802*
Net assets			**£ 89,142**		*£ 99,200*
The funds of the charity:	**13**				
Restricted income funds			46,273		*49,710*
Unrestricted income funds					
General reserve			42,869		*49,490*
Total charity funds			**£ 89,142**		*£ 99,200*

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 2025. 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 18 to 26 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 25th September 2026

Olivia Dix

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

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

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), (Charities SORP FRS 102) 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.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025: continued

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.

3 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025 £
Donations	2,107	-	2,107
	2,107	**-**	**2,107**

Prior year comparatives:			*2024 £*
Donations	*2,197*	*-*	*2,197*
	2,197	***-***	***2,197***

4 Income from charitable activities			2025 £
Norad	-	25,509	25,509
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	74,000	-	74,000
Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs	-	34,951	34,951
Edith Maud Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust	-	5,000	5,000
University of Bristol	-	1,709	1,709
Other	6,030	-	6,030
	80,030	**67,169**	**147,199**

Prior year comparatives:			*2024 £*
Article 36	*-*	*21,155*	*21,155*
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	*70,000*	*44,565*	*114,565*
University of Birmingham	*-*	*15,000*	*15,000*
Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs	*-*	*33,567*	*33,567*
Other	*5,718*	*-*	*5,718*
	75,718	***114,287***	***190,005***

Analysis of expenditure

	Cost of raising funds	Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2025 Total
	£	£	£	£	**£**
Staff costs	4,474	106,288	4,474	-	**115,236**
Staff training	-	3,500	-	-	**3,500**
Research and reports	-	12,896	-	-	**12,896**
Travel	-	10,638	-	-	**10,638**
Office costs	1,218	10,349	609	-	**12,175**
Communications	-	2,993	158	-	**3,150**
Legal and professional fees	-	-	455	3,986	**4,441**
Independent examination	-	-	1,634	-	**1,634**
Meetings & governance	-	-	381	-	**381**
Depreciation	-	-	-	600	**600**
Sub total	5,692	146,663	7,711	4,586	**164,651**
Support costs	-	4,586	-	(4,586)	**-**
Governance costs	-	7,711	(7,711)	-	**-**
Total expenditure 2025	**5,692**	**158,959**	**-**	**-**	**164,651**
Total expenditure 2024	*5,757*	*179,328*	*-*	*-*	*185,085*

Of the total expenditure:	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
2025	£ 94,045	£ 70,606	£ 164,651
2024	*£ 86,652*	*£ 98,433*	*£ 185,085*

Prior year comparatives: 2024	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	***£***
Staff costs	*4,252*	*113,162*	*4,252*	*-*	***121,667***
Research and reports	*-*	*22,592*	*-*	*-*	***22,592***
Travel	*-*	*15,863*	*-*	*-*	***15,863***
Office costs	*1,505*	*13,888*	*752*	*-*	***16,145***
Communications	*-*	*3,675*	*193*	*-*	***3,868***
Legal and professional fees	*-*	*-*	*198*	*2,936*	***3,134***
Independent examination	*-*	*-*	*1,392*	*-*	***1,392***
Sub total	*5,757*	*169,179*	*7,212*	*2,936*	***185,085***
Support costs	*-*	*2,936*	*-*	*(2,936)*	***-***
Governance costs	*-*	*7,212*	*(7,212)*	*-*	***-***
Total expenditure 2024	***5,757***	***179,328***	***-***	***-***	***185,085***

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 continued

6 Net income for the year

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets owned by the Charity	-	*-*
Independent Examination	1,634	*1,392*

7 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Salaries and wages	108,517	*110,866*
Social Security costs	3,515	*7,475*
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	3,204	*3,326*
	115,236	*121,667*

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	*2024*
Charitable activities	2.25	2.25

There was 1 employees whose annual remuneration was £70,000 or more (2024: 1).

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 £89.571 in 2025 (2024: £85,048).

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and Equipment £	Total £
Cost:		
At 1 January 2025	3,223	3,223
At 31 December 2025	**3,223**	**3,223**
Depreciation:		
At 1 January 2025	825	825
Charge for year	600	600
At 31 December 2025	**1,425**	**1,425**
Net book value:	-	-
At 31 December 2025	**1,798**	**1,798**
At 31 December 2024	-	-

9 Debtors

Due within one year:	2025 £	*2024 £*
Other debtors	600	*600*
Prepayments and accrued income	9,053	*7,380*
	9,653	*7,980*

10 Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:

	2025 £	*2024 £*
Trade creditors	576	*23*
Social Security and other taxes	-	*1*
Pension	1,098	*903*
Other creditors	635	*5,527*
Accruals and deferred income	4,082	*4,670*
	6,391	***11,124***

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fund Balances at 31 December 2025 are represented by:			
Fixed assets	1,798	-	1,798
Current Assets	46,162	47,573	93,735
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(5,091)	(1,300)	(6,391)
Total net assets	**42,869**	**46,273**	**89,142**

12 Analysis of net assets between funds - comparative

	Unrestricted Funds £	*Restricted Funds £*	*Total Funds £*
Fund Balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	*2,398*	*-*	*2,398*
Current Assets	*56,916*	*51,010*	*107,926*
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	*(9,824)* -	*1,300*	*(11,124)*
Total net assets	***49,490***	***49,710***	***99,200***

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 continued

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 1 Jan 2025	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer between funds	At 31 Dec 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs	10,472	34,951	(34,034)	-	**11,389**
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust ringfenced funds	39,238	-	(7,804)	-	**31,434**
Norad	-	25,509	(25,509)	-	**-**
Edith Maud Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(1,550)	-	**3,450**
University of Bristol	-	1,709	(1,709)	-	**-**
Total Restricted Funds	**49,710**	**67,169**	**(70,606)**	**-**	**46,273**
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	**49,490**	**87,424**	**(94,045)**	**-**	**42,869**
Total funds	**99,200**	**154,593**	**(164,651)**	**-**	**89,142**

Restricted Funds - description

Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs

Funding to support AOAV research and project work.

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust ringfenced funds

£12,000 funding to support the well being of AOAV staff, to include counselling.

£22,000 to fund travel to Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries in 2025 and future years.

Norweigan Funding: Norad

Funding to support data collection for the Global Explosive Weapons Monitor. Previously received through Article 36.

Edith Maud Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

Funding to document the personal testimonies of refugees arriving in the UK via Calais, who have fled countries where UK arms exports have contributed to ongoing violence.

University of Bristol

Funding for a student from the University of Bristol to work as a paid intern supporting research and project work.

University of Birmingham

#DisabledVoicesfromGaza –narrative methodologies with media and information literacy (MIL) to empower university students with disabilities in Palestine

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 1 Jan 2024	*Incoming*	*Outgoing*	*Transfer between funds*	*At 31 Dec 2024*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*
Norwegian Funding 2024: Article 36	*-*	*21,155*	*(21,662)*	*507*	*-*
University of Birmingham	*27,328*	*15,000*	*(42,328)*	*-*	*-*
Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs	*6,021*	*33,567*	*(29,116)*	*-*	*10,472*
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust ringfenced funds	*-*	*44,565*	*(5,327)*	*-*	*39,238*
Total Restricted Funds	*33,349*	*114,287*	*(98,433)*	*507*	*49,710*
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	*58,514*	*78,135*	*(86,652)*	*(507)*	*49,490*
Total funds	*91,863*	*192,422*	*(185,085)*	*-*	*99,200*

15 Related parties

In 2025 there are no related party transactions in the year (2024: nil).

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

16 Trustees

No reimbursements were made to trustees in 2025 (2024: nil) for travelling and other expenses and no payments were made direct to trustees or third parties.

17 Pension and other post-retirement benefit commitments

Defined contribution

	2025	***2024***
	£	***£***
Contributions payable by the company for the year	3,204	*3,326*

At 31 December 2025 £1,098 was outstanding (2024: £903)

18 Contingent assets or liabilities

There are no contingent assets or liabilities at December 2025 (2024:Nil).

19 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.