

ANIMAL INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

Faiths Working Together for Animals

Annual Report and Accounts

For the Year Ended

31st March 2024

www.animal-interfaith-alliance.com

Chair’s Statement



This is an opportunity to thank all those who continue to work tirelessly to create awareness about the need to respect the animal kingdom and the environment. Clearly, one of the most important keys is humane education, especially of younger generations, which is something that AIA and its partners will continue to focus on.

Despite the many challenges we face today, mostly man-made and self-inflicted, we should never lose sight of the fact that it only takes one small match to light up a completely darkened room. In the same way, small acts of kindness can go a long way towards restoring faith and optimism in humanity and encouraging others to follow the good example.

May AIA and its partners continue to go from strength to strength.

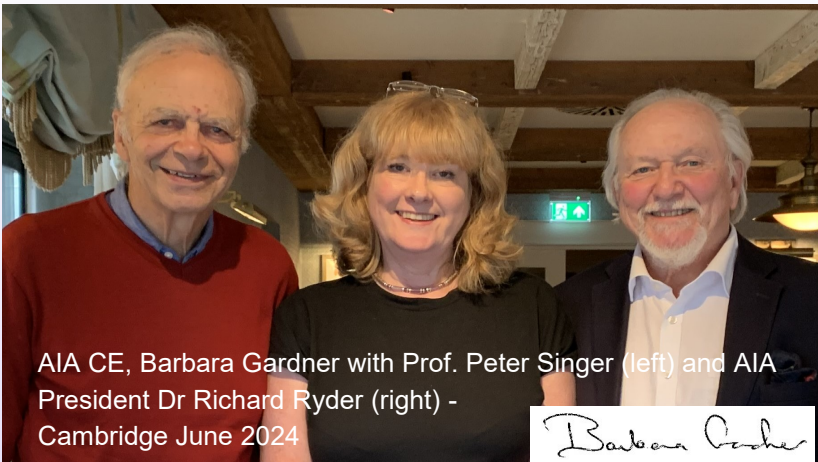
Dr Andre Menache,
Chair AIA

Chief Executive’s Statement

In this, the second year of our five year strategy 2022-26 ‘Faiths Working Together for Animals’, I would like to thank everyone who has helped us to achieve so much of it so far. Particularly the member organisations who do great work themselves, as well as supporting the Alliance’s work. Also the directors and patrons, whose input has been invaluable. I’d particularly like to thank our President, Dr Richard Ryder and our Chair, Dr Andre Menache who have both worked extremely hard. Most importantly, I’d like to thank Marian Hussenbux, AIA’s multi-lingual international campaigns secretary who writes letters to people of influence around the world to try to end animal abuse, and Sheila Thomas, our wonderful membership secretary.

In the directors’ report, you will see that we have made great strides with our education goals, working with the PoWR and the UN to put animals on their agenda, as well as promoting a plant based diet and 21st century, human relevant test methods. This has largely been due to collaboration with other organisations globally, and I’d like to thank Veganism in Education, UNEP’s Faith for Earth Coalition, the World Federation for Animals, Eurogroup for Animals, the Interfaith Vegan Alliance, the Charter for Compassion, Compassion Consortium, Climate Healers and ALAW for their collaboration. We are achieving so much together.

AIA is run entirely by volunteers on a shoestring. I’m so proud of what everyone has achieved with so little funding but huge dedication. Finally, thank you to Supreme Master Ching Hai for awarding AIA with a Shining World Compassion Award and \$10k, which has made a huge difference. **Thank You All!**



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Director's Report

For the Year Ended 31st March 2024



Vision and Mission

The Animal Interfaith Alliance's (AIA) vision is a peaceful world where people of all faiths and none work together to treat animals with respect and compassion. Its mission is to create a united voice for animals from all the major faiths to bring about a world where animals are treated with respect and compassion.

Principle Activities

AIA is a unique alliance of the world's most influential faith based, animal advocacy organisations which speaks out on the moral treatment of animals by drawing on the combined wisdom of all faiths and worldviews. It promotes social harmony by bringing the faith groups together on an issue they all share a concern for. AIA's activities include animal advocacy and education. We aim to put animals on the agenda at the highest levels.

Achievements

AIA is a [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) accredited organisation and a member of UNEP's [Faith for Earth Coalition](#). AIA is a member of the [World Federation for Animals](#) and [Eurogroup for Animals](#).

AIA is fulfilling its five year strategy 2022-

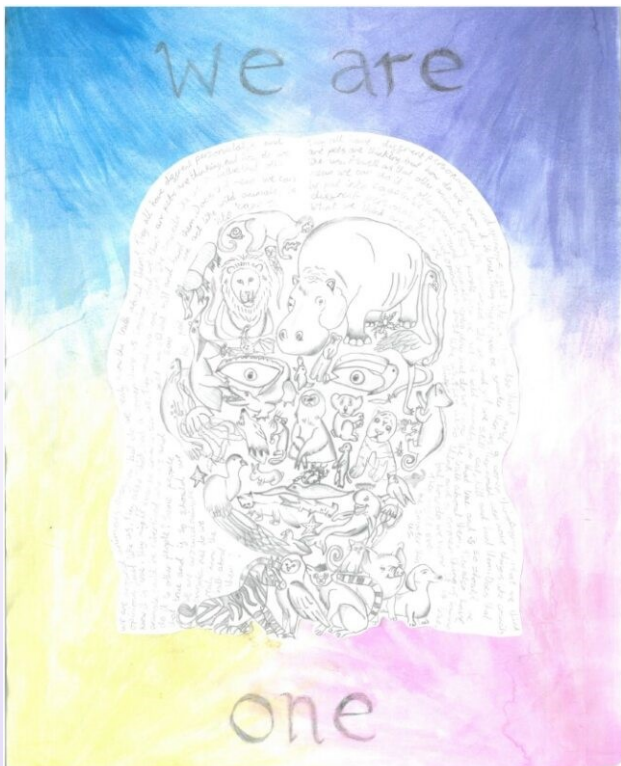
2026, *Faiths Working Together for Animals*, which defines its vision, mission, beliefs, values and objectives; reviews its strengths and weaknesses; analyses the world we live in now and the how we want the world to be, and sets out how we aim to get there. AIA has defined eight key ambitions:

1. To put Animal Ethics on the Education Curriculum.
2. To work with the Parliament of World Religions for Animals.
3. To achieve a UN Convention on Animal Protection.
4. To put Animals in the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
5. To replace Laboratory Animals with 21st Century Human Relevant Test Methods.
6. To promote a Plant Based Diet and end Factory Farming.
7. To promote Ethical Investments to Promote Animal Welfare.
8. To Reactively Campaign in Response to Events.

The full strategy can be read on the AIA website at [here](#).

Education

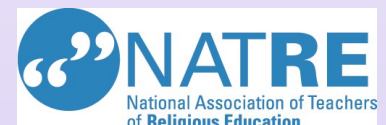
Our first main achievement relates to key ambition 1. To put animal ethics on the education curriculum. Last year we worked with *RE Today*, the major provider of religious education (RE) materials in the UK, and *Veganism in Education* (VinE) to produce a range of free [RE Resources](#) which enables teachers and pupils to explore, through critical, objective and pluralistic RE lessons, questions around the moral status of animals and ethical veganism as a worldview. Our Patron, Peter Egan provided an excellent introductory video. This year, we have continued to promote these educational resources, and in January 2024 we joined a [webinar](#) hosted by Goldsmiths University's Faith & Civil Society Unit entitled 'Ethical Veganism: A New Worldview in Religious Education?' in which teachers of RE shared their experiences of teaching the courses.



Along with VinE, we sponsored **NATRE's** (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) [Spirited Arts Competition](#) for the theme "All God's Creatures?" to encourage children to consider animals in a spiritual context. The competition closed on 31st July 2023 and we received over 4,000 very inspirational entries. A beautiful video, set to the moving music composed by one of the entrants, was compiled which can be viewed [here](#). The latter half of the financial year was spent preparing for the 2024 Spirited Arts Competition where we are jointly sponsoring the theme 'Why Do Animals Matter?' with VinE.



Finally we have been promoting the new 'Golden Rule Song' video produced by VinE, which can be viewed [here](#).



Other Educational Events



On 5th April 2023 AIA joined colleagues at the Charter for Compassion and the Interfaith Vegan Coalition to celebrate Golden Rule Day with [a webinar on “The Golden Rule and Compassion for All Animals”](#).



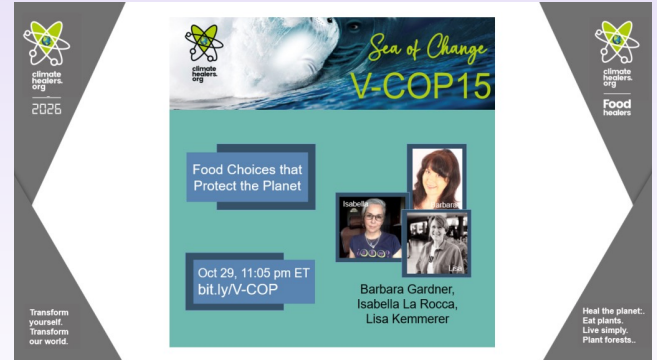
Natalia Doran (left) & Dr Christina Nellist (right) of Pan Orthodox Concern for Animals.

In June 2023 we joined our member organisation, Pan-Orthodox Concern for Animals at the European Academy of Religion at St Andrews University, Scotland to present on [‘Creation Care and Christian Responsibility’](#) to put animals on their agenda. AIA spoke on ‘An Interfaith view on extending the Golden Rule to include all sentient beings’.



On 5th October 2023, to celebrate World Animal Day, we joined our friends at the World Federation for Animals online to speak at [a webinar](#) held by

the Somali Animal Welfare Society (SAWS), held in Mogadishu, on the subject of ‘the benefits of improving animal welfare from the perspective of animal production’. Again, AIA spoke on ‘An Interfaith view on extending the Golden Rule to include all sentient beings’.



On 19th October 2023, AIA presented online at the [V-Cop15 Convergence](#) organised by Climate Healers in the U.S.



In November 2023, AIA and its members held a number of events to celebrate Interfaith Week, with our very own [Animal Interfaith Week](#). This included our AGM, at which Bob Isaacson of Dharma Voices for Animals, an AIA affiliate organisation, was the guest speaker who described [DVA's work](#) at persuading Buddhists to be vegan.



On Golden Rule Day on the 5th April 2024, AIA jointly hosted a [talk by AIA Patron, Dr Nayana Shah](#) on ‘Alice’s Adventures in Golden Rule Land’ to spread the message that the Golden Rule extends to all sentient beings.



Photo by Sailesh Rao

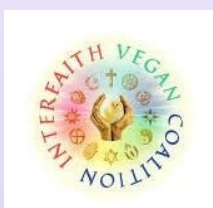
Parliament of the World's Religions

Our second main achievement relates to key ambition 2. To work with the **Parliament of the World's Religions (PoWR)** for animals. The Parliament convened in Chicago in August 2023 and we attended, with our U.S. colleagues at the *Interfaith Vegan Coalition*, *Climate Healers* and *Compassion Consortium*, where we co-presented a number of panels and religious observances that focused on animals. We were also joined by our member organisation, Catholic Concern for Animals.

A considerable amount of work went into the panel applications and we were delighted that all our proposals were accepted. The presentations and religious observances went down well and many good contacts were established there. Next year we will be preparing for the next convening of the PoWR in 2026.



CCA's Chris Fegan speaks on stage

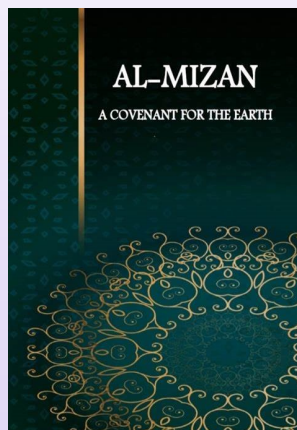




United Nations

Our third main achievement relates to key ambition 3. To put animals on the agenda of the United Nations (UN) by [Achieving a UN Convention on Animal Protection](#). Last year AIA received accreditation from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) which gave us consultative status with UNEP and allows us to attend their meetings and engage with them on policy matters, and we became a member of UNEP's [Faith for Earth Coalition](#). In addition, we became members of Eurogroup for Animals (EFA) and the World Federation of Animals (WFA) and we are working with the WFA on UN matters, providing the faith side of the work.

In February 2024, AIA and its member organisation Catholic Concern for Animals, attended UNEA-6 in Nairobi to meet with the key players at UNEP's Faith for Earth Coalition and to support the WFA in trying to put animal issues into the proposed resolutions. We were delighted to attend the launch of [Al Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth](#) there, which is the Islamic sibling to Laudato Si'. Written by Islamic scholars and chaired by Faith for Earth, it included very positive statements about animal rights. We are actively promoting this excellent faith-based document.



2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals

Our fourth main achievement relates to key ambition 4. to [put animals in the 2030 UN sustainable development goals](#). We are collaborating with Beyond Cruelty in their campaign for a UN Sustainable Development Goal 18 'Zero Animal Exploitation' and to put animals into the existing 17 sustainable development goals, details of which can be seen [here](#).





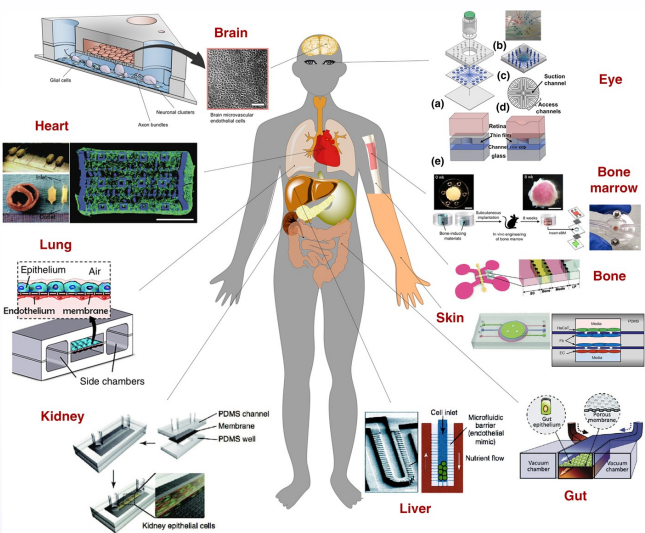
Laboratory Animals

Our fifth main achievement relates to key ambition 5. Replacing laboratory animals with human relevant test methods.

Is there light at the end of the tunnel? The answer must surely be ‘yes’. A scientific study published earlier this year demonstrates the clear benefits and advantages of using 21st century technology over animal experiments. The technology in question is known as ‘organ on a chip’ and utilises human cells in a realistic in-vitro cellular environment. The authors of the study concluded that their liver-on-a-chip model possessed human metabolic activity that closely mimics the real thing, making it a preferred test system.

However, what sets this study apart from similar 21st century research is the fact that a major supplier of laboratory animals actively participated in the study. This is significant because it indicates a recognition of 21st century technology and a shift away from animal testing towards human based research.

Our duty now is to accelerate this process as much as possible, through education and public awareness campaigns.



Multi-organ on a chip - Cambridge University Press





Image by Hans at Pixabay

Promoting a Plant Based Diet and Ending Factory Farming

Our sixth main achievement relates to key ambition 6. To promote a plant based diet and end factory farming. In March we hosted a webinar prepared by our affiliate organisation Catholic Action for Animals, titled 'An Introduction to Animal Rights from a Faith Perspective: New Insights into Animal Agriculture' with a panel of top speakers discussing the urgency of moving to a plant based diet. The speakers included Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, the lead Catholic Bishop on environmental matters in the UK and the Bishop's Conference spokesperson on the environment. Details can be read and the recording viewed [here](#).



'All breathing, living creatures should not be slain or treated with violence, abused or tormented. This is the supreme unchangeable law.'

Sutrakritanga

"We are a generation that is facing great challenges but also many opportunities. In environmental concerns, we have so much evidence of climate change events that are affecting all continents and the oceans, destroying biodiversity, disrupting agriculture, and warming our world to a point where irreparable damage will soon be done. But, at the same time, we have the knowledge and the means to repair the damage and secure our common home for future generations. Many of the necessary changes lie in establishing a healthy balance in agricultural methods, reducing our consumption of meat, making more productive use of agricultural land and avoiding any further deforestation. This webinar for Catholics on animal agriculture will provide sound reasoning on what needs to be done with urgency if we are to care responsibly for our common home and our brothers and sisters in our global family."

Bishop John Arnold





Reactive Campaigning in Response to Events



Our reactive campaigning in response to events, key ambition 8, continues with great strength. In particular, our letter writing campaigns to end numerous animal cruelties globally, led by our multi-lingual international campaigns secretary, Marian

Hussenbux, have been very active.

Key areas we have written on include, in the UK, banning trophy hunting imports, a ban on advertising tourism abroad which involves animal abuse, chasing the government to deliver on their pledge to ban live exports, wildlife crimes such as raptor persecution, badger baiting and badger culling, grouse shooting and the use of snares. We have written to the Co-op who failed to ban the sale of cruelly raised chickens, despite a 96% motion at their AGM and to RSPCA Assured about suffering ducks on their farms. We have written about farrowing crates for sows in Scotland

We have written about the hunting of wolves in France, whale hunting in Iceland, a lonely zoo elephant in Armenia and the killing of street dogs in India. We have written about octopus farms and bull street fiestas in Spain. In the US we have written about river dams, exotic petting zoos, the designation of a national marine sanctuary in the Pacific Remote Islands, plans to kill black bears, and

the rounding up and killing of wild horses. We have asked for zoo elephants to be transferred to a sanctuary. We have written about the cruel treatment of cows in factory farms in Canada and the penned hunting of coyotes with dogs. We have written to the Australian government asking them to end the live export of sheep (an ask now promised!) as well as shark nets and the shooting of wild horses. We have written about reef destroying bottom trawling in New Zealand. These are just some of the things we have campaigned on this year. Details of all AIA's campaigns can be read [here](#).

We have also been coalition members with other animal welfare organisations, jointly signing many of their animal welfare open letters.

Shining World Compassion Award

AIA has been awarded a [Shining World Compassion Award](#) from Supreme Master Ching Hai, for which we are most humbled and grateful. Full details [here](#).

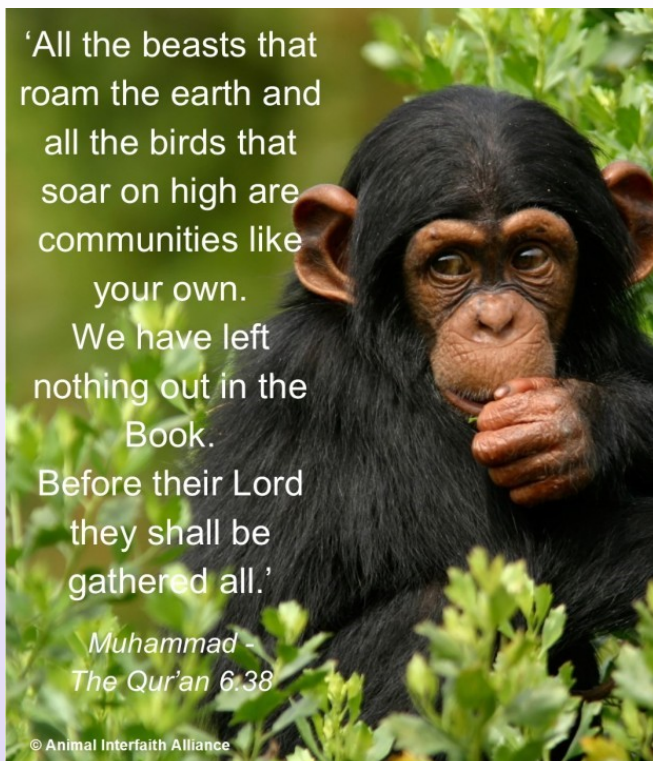


Structure, Governance and Management

AIA is registered at Companies House as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, company registration number 08958588. It is governed by a board of directors who are elected every three years and who determine AIA's strategy and oversee its management. Its members comprise faith-based animal advocacy organisations. Individuals can also contribute as supporters but are not voting members. We try to achieve a diverse representation of member organisations and faiths on the board. The day to day management of the organisation is run by three volunteers, the Chief Executive, the International Campaigns Secretary and the Membership Secretary with the support of the directors.

Membership

There are full members and associate members. Full members have two votes at the AGM and can appoint someone from their organisation to the board. Associate members have one vote at the AGM but cannot appoint anyone to the board. We also have affiliate organisations who are not members and are not actively involved in AIA, but support its work.



Financial Review

As a not-for-profit company, AIA applies all its income to its mission. The income comprises the annual membership fee of the member organisations and subscriptions of supporters, as well as donations. Costs are kept to a minimum, as the organisation is run by volunteers and does not hold any property or assets. Any surplus or deficit income is held in and released from provisions. During the covid lockdown period, most of our work was carried out online and incurred very little cost, so we provided for better days. We have been using these provisions during this financial year, now that we are more active again.

The balance in the bank at 31 March 2024 was £10,754 (2023: £9,148). Income for the year ended 31st March 2024 was £10,387 (2023: £3,978), which comprised of £8,996 from donations, including £7,605 from Supreme Master Ching Hai for the Shining World Compassion Award, £900 membership income from organisations, and £491 net subscriptions from individual supporters.

Public Benefit Statement

AIA provides a public benefit by educating the public on the empathetic treatment of animals which gives a moral benefit to the human community and sustains the environment. It also creates social harmony by bringing different faith groups together.

Risk Management

The board of directors have considered the major risks to the organisation and have developed a risk register which includes risks relating to governance, operations, finance, external threats and compliance with law and regulation, in line with the Charity Commission's document CC26. The directors regularly review the risks and have implemented structures to control them.

Going Concern

The directors have reviewed the organisation's forecasts and are satisfied that AIA remains a going concern.



Future Development

AIA will continue to implement its five year strategy 2022-2026, *Faiths Working Together for Animals*. We will continue to promote our educational materials, jointly sponsor the Spirited Arts competition and attend other educational events as the opportunity arises. We will continue to work with the Parliament of the World's Religions and the United Nations through our memberships of UNEP's Faith for Earth Coalition and the World Federation for Animals. We will continue to campaign to replace laboratory animals with 21st century, human relevant methods and to promote a plant based diet and end factory farming. And we will continue to campaign reactively in response to events as they arise with our letter writing campaigns.

In April 2024, AIA attended the first General Assembly of the World Federation for Animals (WFA) in Copenhagen and used our membership to vote there. We also jointly signed a [promise to animals and our future](#) with all the other WFA members. We will be working with the WFA, mostly through online meetings, to put animals at the heart of the UN's agenda and to continue to promote the Nexus resolution, passed at UNEA-5.2 in 2022, which recognises the interconnection between animal welfare and the environment.

We are planning to co-host an Interfaith Panel Webinar with our affiliate organisation, Shamayim Jewish Animal Advocacy in 2024.

We want to continue to develop our membership to be more diverse and include under-represented faiths. Whilst there is a diverse range of faiths within the affiliate organisations, we recognise that the member organisations are heavily Christian. We want to encourage affiliate organisations of other faiths, particularly Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim, to become members.

We believe that we are stronger in coalition than we are when we work individually. That is why we have formed the alliance of faith based, animal advocacy organisations. And that is why we have joined other organisations, such as UNEP's Faith for Earth Coalition, the World Federation for Animals, and the Eurogroup for Animals. We will continue to work together for animals.

Signed:

Barbara Gardner
Chief Executive

Income and Expenditure Account

For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover (note 1)	10,387	3,978
Expenditure (note 2)	10,387	<u>(3,978)</u>
Surplus or (Deficit) for the period	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Balance Sheet

For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Current Assets		
Prepayments	0	1,095
Bank	<u>10,754</u>	<u>9,148</u>
	10,754	10,243
Current Liabilities		
Accruals	13	13
Provisions (note 3)	<u>10,741</u>	<u>10,230</u>
	10,754	10,243
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	0	0
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Reserves	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions of the small companies' regime applicable to micro-entities.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 29 August 2024 and signed on behalf of the Board by:



Barbara Gardner – Director

Date: 29 August 2024

The notes below form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Accounts
For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

1. Turnover	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	8,996	2,933
Organisation membership	900	650
Individual supporters	491	395
	<u>10,387</u>	<u>3,978</u>
2. Expenditure	2024	2023
	£	£
Advocacy	9,739	2,636
Website, newsletter & social media	257	425
Memberships	-	325
Governance & Administration costs	391	591
	<u>10,387</u>	<u>3,978</u>
3. Provisions	2024	2023
	£	£
Advocacy	9,000	8,500
Website, newsletter & social media	750	750
Memberships	-	200
Governance & Administration costs	391	780
	<u>10,741</u>	<u>10,230</u>
4. Employee Information		
Average number of employees:	0	0

5. Off balance sheet disclosure
None

ASWA Animals in War Memorial Service 2023

AIA directors, Dr Christina Nellist, co-founder of Pan-Orthodox Concern for Animals (POCA) (left) and Rev. Prof. Fr Martin Henig, Vice President of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA) (right) at the ASWA-organised Animals in War Memorial Service in Park Lane, London, on Remembrance Day 2023.



Company Information

People

Directors

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024:

Dr Andre Menache – Chair
 Chris Fegan – Deputy Chair
 Barbara Gardner – Chief Executive
 Rev. Prof. Fr Martin Henig
 Sunita Mansigani
 Rev. William Melton (from 16 October 2023)
 Dr Christina Nellist
 Rev. Feargus O'Connor
 Dr Keval Shah
 Michelle St John (from 16 May 2023)
 Judith Wilkings

Company Secretary

Barbara Gardner

The Team

Barbara Gardner - Founder & Chief Executive
 Marian Hussenbux - International Campaigns Secretary
 Sheila Thomas - Membership Secretary

Full details of the directors and team can be read [here](#).

Company Details

Company Registration number

08958588 (England and Wales)

Registered Office

56 Cole Lane, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0PN

Bank

Triodos Bank

Website

www.animal-interfaith-alliance.com

Presidents

President: - Dr Richard Ryder

Vice-President: - Dr Deborah Jones

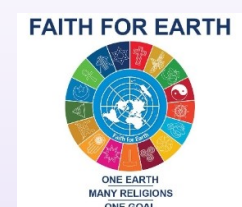
Patrons

Rev. Christa Blanke (*Christian*)
 Rabbi Prof. Dan Cohn-Sherbok (*Jewish*)
 Peter Egan
 Kay, Duchess of Hamilton
 Joyce D'Silva (*Ambassador CIWF*)
 Faizan Jaleel (*Muslim*)
 Dr Lisa Kemmerer (*Interfaith*)
 Satish Kumar (*Jain*)
 Nitin Mehta MBE (*Jain*)
 Dr Alpesh Patel (*Hindu*)
 Dr Matthieu Ricard (*Buddhist*)
 Anant Shah OBE (*Jain*)
 Dr Nayana Shah (*Universal Spirituality*)
 Muhammad Safa (*Muslim*)
 Ajit & Charanjit Singh MBE (*Sikh*)
 Dr Will Tuttle (*Buddhist*)
 Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg (*Jewish*)

Full details of the Presidents & Patrons can be read [here](#).

Memberships

AIA is a member of the following organisations:



AIA is a United Nations Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)) accredited organisation.

Company Information

Member Organisations

During the year ended 31 March 2024

All-Creatures.org

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals

Catholic Concern for Animals

Christian Animal Rights Association

Christian Vegetarians and Vegans

Christian Vegetarian Association US

Compassion Consortium

Institute of Jainology

Pan-Orthodox Concern for Animals

Quaker Concern for Animals

Sadhu Vaswani Centre

Veganism in Education



Member organisations can vote at the AGM. Full members have two votes and Associate members have one vote.

Affiliate Organisations

AIA also has affiliate organisations who are not members and do not pay a membership fee. They do not participate in the running of AIA, as members do, but they support its work. A full list of affiliate organisations can be viewed [here](#).