

Annual Report & Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2016

## Legal and administrative details

Legal status Proshanti is a charity registered in England and Wales and a

company limited by guarantee

Company registration

number

07108914

Date of company

registration

19 December 2009

Charity registration

number

1137179

Date of charity

registration

29 July 2010

Registered office The Bromley by Bow Centre

St Leonard's Street, Bromley by Bow

London E3 3BT

Bank HSBC

38 Canada Place, Canary Wharf

London E14 5AH

Trustees Lilu Ahmed Chair of Trustees

Shafi Ahmed Resigned 21 January 2017

Meriel Barclay Resigned 21 January 2017

Dr Jaha Afroze Momena

Dr Rebecca Scott

David Storr Appointed 21 January 2017

Company Secretary Graham Rowbotham

President Sir Stephen O'Brien

Vice-Presidents Shafi Ahmed, Helen Matthews

Programme Consultant Abul Momin

Treasurer Susan Storr

Proshanti UK is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Its objects are:

The Company's objects are the relief of sickness and the promotion and preservation of good health, in particular but not exclusively, of people living in the Juri region of Bangladesh, by the support and establishment of a healthy living centre or centres.

The Trustees of the Charity are also the Directors of the Company. We have formal Board meetings at least four times a year and meet informally between Board meetings. Our volunteer medical advisers in London meet about twice a year and report directly to the Board.

Trustees are recruited from those who show a particular interest in the work of Proshanti and who can contribute to the work of the Board. Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing Proshanti's aims and objectives. In particular, the Trustees have considered how the activities of the organisation will contribute to the objectives that have been established for the charity.

Our main focus in 2016 was our health clinic in Juri, Sylhet in the north-east of Bangladesh, with the project described as "Providing ante-natal and post-natal care to poor and marginalised women in Bangladesh". We started this clinic in 2011 as a result of a grant of £15,000 from DFID through the International Health Links Partnership Scheme and have raised sufficient funds since then to continue the work. In 2016 we made significant strides in improving the health care of the pregnant women registered with the clinic and at any one time there are now 100 women being cared for during their pregnancies and for six weeks after the babies' births. In total we have supported 174 women each year. Over 646 women have been supported over the last six years. The services we provide include doctor appointments, home visits by Proshanti nurses and midwives, blood tests, abdominal scans, medication, the transportation of patients and delivery costs including c-sections where required. These are all provided free of charge to poor and marginalised women regardless of religion. In 2016 about 91% of women had normal deliveries, 8% were by c-section and the remaining 1% were complicated cases referred to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital or the Raqib Ali Medical College.

To manage Proshanti's work cost effectively in Bangladesh, instead of registering as an independent NGO, in July 2016 Proshanti entered into an association with Prottoy for the delivery of Proshanti's services in the region. Prottoy Unnayan Sangatha is a registered national NGO in Bangladesh, established in 1998. Prottoy works in partnership with Proshanti UK for the approval from the Government of Bangladesh of Proshanti's projects and the overseas the delivery of our services.

Proshanti currently employs four members of staff in Juri. Our Project Officer, Lutfur Rahman, was recruited in October 2016. Joni Das and Oporna Rudro Pal are qualified midwives and Fahad Ahmed is our part-time management trainee. The Proshanti trustees are very grateful to them for their hard work and dedication to the clinic.

There is a considerable need for this clinic in Juri as, in the Sylhet region, only 47 percent of poor women receive any ante-natal care and only 11 percent have a skilled attendant at delivery (Bangladesh Demographic & Health Survey 2011). Bangladesh has been making strides to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 which aims to improve maternal health and Proshanti has been supporting the

country in this goal. We believe we are making a considerable difference to the health of the Proshanti women, their babies and their families. We are therefore confident that the public benefit in the Juri area resulting from Proshanti's work is significant. One relevant statistic is that there have been no maternal deaths of women at our clinic. This contrasts with a particularly high level of maternal mortality in Bangladesh and in particular in the region of Sylhet. Subject to finding sufficient resources Proshanti anticipates continuing and expanding the clinic over the next two years by increasing the number of pregnant women registered at one time from the current total of 100 and by extending the geographical reach of the project to cover more rural areas in Juri Upazila.

One important development is that we now provide food supplements for the most severely malnourished women. This contributes to their overall health and helps keep their unborn babies as healthy as possible. These women are about 15% of our patients and are provided with, for example, lentils, rice and flour. The funds for this food come from the local organisation the Apex Club of Hakaluki and local individual donors. We are very grateful for their assistance.

Our campaign of fundraising in the UK was helped in 2016 by generous donations from individuals. We are particularly indebted to the East London Lift Company for its continuing and very generous donation. This has enabled Proshanti in London to employ our London based staff. The UCL Bangla Society has again raised money for Proshanti.

We have appointed Dr AKM Momin as Programme Consultant based in London and he has been instrumental, particularly after his visit to the clinic in April, in improving our reporting of clinic statistics and in negotiating with Prottoy. We are indebted to him for all his excellent work.

Proshanti UK's long-term aim remains that of building, equipping and running a healthy living centre in Juri. However in the medium term, given the significant difference we believe we are making, we aim to continue to fund and administer the ante-natal clinic. We are also working to raise the awareness of the charity both in London and in Juri.

In 2016 Proshanti was very fortunate to have enormous assistance from volunteers. Our Chair, Mrs Lilu Ahmed visited Juri in 2016 and very productive visits in terms of quality control and training were made by Dr Momin and Dr Jaha Afroze Momena, a Trustee of Proshanti. In London we have received considerable help from our volunteer medical advisers, consisting of Drs Julia Davis, Gita Thakur, Ian Gibson, Carol Gibson, and Beccy Scott. They continue to review, advise and support the clinical reports from Juri and advise on relevant courses of action for the clinic. Dr Momena, a consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, is in weekly contact with the clinic to advise on patients with particular problems.

In Bangladesh we continued to work with the Abdul Aziz Clinic in Juri and the local Government health team. We are privileged to have help from Hadi Hussain Babul who is our volunteer Project Director in Bangladesh.

Financially the year raised over £26,700 (2015 £31,500) in income. After expenditure of over £34,441 (2015 £42,659) the charity produced a deficit of £7,674. We did have more than enough funds in the bank to finance this and our end of year bank balance in the UK was £10,748.

We are continuing to devote most of our energy, time and financial resources to developing the clinic in Juri. In addition we have been working to improve our website and to continue our fundraising campaign. If we do raise additional funds over and above those required to run the clinic as it is now, we aim to extend the post-natal care of patients from six to 12 weeks. We also plan, subject to funds, to extend the food supplement programme to all patients.

**Reserves Policy.** The Trustees review the reserves policy annually to ensure that it meets the Charity's changing needs and circumstances. The Trustees consider it desirable to hold reserves equating to three months of cash flow with reserves defined as net current assets plus investments less restricted funds. As at 31 December 2016 these reserves were £12,445 (2015 £1,078) equating to over three months of cash flow and is in line with the reserves policy.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed by Graham Rowbotham, Secretary, on 25 September 2017:

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## We are most grateful to our many supporters and in particular to -

- The Bromley by Bow Centre, and Rob Trimble in particular, for supporting our activities and for providing office space and resources
- Stephen O'Brien and Rev. Helen Matthews for helping us with our strategy and spreading the Proshanti word
- A. Greenwood for providing the Independent Examiner's Reports for Proshanti UK.
- Juri Upazilla Government medical team, especially Dr Kamaruzzaman, and the staff at the Abdul Aziz Medical Centre in Juri
- Our staff in Juri Lutfur Rahman, Joni Das, Oporna Rudro Pal and Fahad Ahmed.
- The Proshanti Advisory Board in Bangladesh
- The Juri Upazilla local government team
- The UCL Bangla Society for its continuing support
- Our families and friends for lots of help and support

Income & Expenditure Account for 2016

Income Received During Year		2016		2015
£	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
Donations	6686	630	7316	9288
Soutar Trust		2000	2000	
East London Lift		15000	15000	15000
Ummah Welfare Trust				10000
UCL Bangla Society		1924	1924	770
Insurance payment	500		500	
Bank Interest	12		12	13
Other	15		15	
Total Income	7213	19554	26767	31523
Expenditure paid during the Year				
Staff Costs				19129
Insurance		773	773	690
Travel to Bangladesh & subsistence	472		472	2475
Travel In UK	38		38	1758
Website	550		550	1140
Bank charges	223		223	228
Clinic, staff & training in Bangladesh	2729	14117	16846	12610
Other Expenses	301		301	4629
Dr Momin Consultancy fees		10260	10260	
Mrs Khatun fundraising fees		4320	4320	
Dr Momin expenses on behalf of Proshanti		658	658	
Total expenses	4313	30128	34441	42659
Surplus(Deficit) for year	2900	(10574)	(7674)	(11136)

## Restricted Funds at 31/12/16

Funds for patient travel & purchase of ambulance	£1387
Purchase of Ultra sound machine	£2781
Capital costs re new health centre	£1924
East London Lift re Salaries/ Consultant fees	£2230
Total	£8322

# Balance Sheet 2016

j	2016	2015
Assets	£	£
HSBC	10748	31288
NCC Bank	392	1762
Sonali Bank	40	40
prepayments	10454	454
Total	21634	33544
Liabilities		
Surplus b/f	28440	39576
Deficit	-7673	-11136
Surplus year end	20767	28440
Creditors/accruals	867	5104
Total	21634	33544

#### **Companies Act 2006**

For the year ending 31 December 2016 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors/trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

Kalaza Scott 26/09/2017

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The Accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 2 September 2017 and signed on its behalf by Dr Rebecca Scott, trustee and director of Proshanti UK.