

**i-Probono**

Company Number 7026261

**Balance Sheet  
as at 30 April 2017**

	2017 £	2017 £	2016 £	2016 £
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash at bank	39,242		97,445	
Debtors (grant receivable)	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
		39,242		97,445
<b>Creditors (amounts falling due within 1 year)</b>				
Accruals		<u>1,276</u>		<u>3,733</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>37,966</u>		<u>93,712</u>
<b>Capital &amp; Reserves</b>	£	£	£	£
Reserves at 1 May 2016		93,712		4,849
Movements to 30 April 2017				
Grant awarded	86,688		131,680	
Donations/other income	17,351		20,715	
Expenses incurred	<u>(159,785)</u>		<u>(63,532)</u>	
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease)</b>		(55,746)		88,863
<b>Capital &amp; Reserves as at 30 April 2017</b>		<u>37,966</u>		<u>93,712</u>

For the period ended 30 April 2017 the Company was entitled to exemption under Section 480 of the Companies Act 2006.

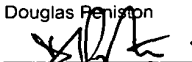
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting periods and the preparation of accounts.

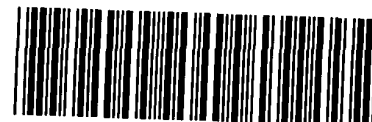
These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

These accounts have been approved by the Board of Directors on 19 January 2018  
And signed on their behalf by:

Douglas Peniston  
 Director

Shireen Irani  
 Director

WEDNESDAY



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COMPANIES HOUSE

**i-Probono**

Company Number 7026261

**Notes to the Balance Sheet  
as at 30 April 2017**

- The Company has incurred expenses of £159,785 (2015-16 £63,532) and was awarded grant income of £86,688 (2015-16 £131,680) and received donations of £17,351 (2015-16 £20,715)
- The cost of the Companies House Annual Return fee was borne by Fieldfisher LLP without any right of reimbursement from the Company.
- In addition to the Income included above the Company received donations in kind from Fieldfisher LLP for programme and administrative support in the form of the use of office facilities and secondment of staff. The estimated value of these benefits was £140,000
- The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The liability of members of the Company is limited to the extent that each member undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £1) to the Company's assets in the event of a winding-up.

## **I-PROBONO**

**(a company limited by guarantee)**

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2017**

#### **Trustees**

Ellen Fleming  
Shireen Irani  
Roger James  
Katherine Mulhem  
Douglas Peniston

#### **Company registered number**

07026261

#### **Charity registered number**

1148556

#### **Registered office**

Riverbank House, 2 Swan Lane, London EC4R 3TT

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2017**

The Trustees (who are also directors of i-Probono (the Charity) for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 April 2017. i-Probono operates under the name "iProbono". The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective 1 January 2015).

Since the Charity qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### **a. Constitution**

The Charity is constituted under articles of association dated 22 September 2009 as a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity number 1148556.

## **b. Method of appointment or election of Trustees**

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected under the terms of the articles of association.

## **c. Organisational structure and network**

The Charity is a global online network connecting civil society organisations in need of legal assistance with lawyers who want to use their skills for the public good. It operates throughout the world, with principal activities in the United Kingdom, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. iProbono also has a representative in Brazil and has undertaken projects in Africa, South East Asia and has a footprint in Pakistan. In India it operates in association with iProbono India.

The Trustees are supported by an Advisory Council.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### **a. Objects**

The Charity's objects are the promotion of volunteering to further such charitable purposes (as are charitable under English law) for the public benefit in particular but not limited to providing and arranging online community matching pro bono projects (that require legal and other advice) and assistance with volunteers from around the world.

### **b. Activities for the public benefit**

In the year to 30 April 2017 the Charity matched more than 190 projects for charitable, non-profit and other civil society organisations with volunteers; since its incorporation it has matched 930 such projects with volunteers.

The Charity's mission is to institutionalise a culture of pro bono, to strengthen and professionalise the charitable sector and to enable access to justice for the poor.

In managing the Charity's activities, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

### **c. Contribution by volunteers**

The Charity has a worldwide network of over 60,000 registered volunteers. In the year to 30 April 2017 over 600 members of the iProbono network participated in projects with which they were matched by the Charity. Significant law firm and in-house legal team support during the year has been provided by leading firms such as Fieldfisher, Pinsent Masons, Dentons, Debevoise & Plimpton, White & Case, Kirkland & Ellis, Linklaters, Ashurst, and lawyers from major corporations such as Microsoft, LinkedIn, UKTV, eBay and NBC Universal among others.

## **Achievements and performance**

### **Summary of main achievements during the year**

iProbono works to uphold the rights of poor and disadvantaged populations around the world. We give a voice to vulnerable and marginalised populations – enabling them to access justice, to participate in society and access basic services. Our vision

is a world where there is equal access to justice for all, not just those who can afford it. Our mission is to uphold the human rights of the poor and marginalized. We strengthen civil society organisations (CSOs) by providing them with free comprehensive legal support. We litigate for those denied justice, pursuing strategic casework that leads to legal reform. And we advocate on their behalf, mobilising the combined power of civil society and the private sector to highlight injustice, protect civil liberties, entrench human rights and end discrimination. We mobilise the power of the pro bono legal community to support CSOs comply legislation; to find ways to enable them to continue their work; and to engage with the government. We assist vulnerable populations, activists and human rights defenders in need of representation and support.

Some 1,600 organisations worldwide are currently registered with the iProbono network, allowing organisations to post projects online and be matched with suitably qualified volunteers.

Some of the case studies from our **Capacity-Building** work:

- Lifebox Foundation: We assisted the organisation on their procurement process and supplier agreements/contracts.
- Street Child United: Lawyers on our network are undertaking a complete policy audit for SCU to ensure SCU has all the necessary policies, procedures and guidelines in place to operate in a compliant manner.
- Childreach International: We helped Childreach International with their employment requirements.
- Hope for Justice: We assisted them with a review of their data protection policy.
- Chickenshed: We helped them with the audit of their privacy policy and with their employment requirements.
- We assisted EkGaon, a social enterprise that connects farmers with distributors using mobile phones, to help them reduce crop loss and increase productivity. Our pro bono lawyers helped the NGO form agreements with the farmers, so that the farmers remain in full control of the price of their crop.

Some of the case studies from our **Litigation** work:

- Several families based in the Rajeev Camp basti, in Delhi, were rendered homeless as their homes were demolished in February 2017. iProbono staff members conducted an extensive fact-finding exercise, after which iProbono's Civil Panel member, filed a writ petition on behalf of the residents, seeking rehabilitation and housing. The Delhi High Court held that 14 families that we represented were wrongly denied housing by DUSIB. They will now be rehabilitated, ending nearly 8 months of homelessness.
- More than 350 slum dwellers New Delhi's East Kidwai Nagar were on the verge of becoming homeless due to the threatened demolition of their homes. This matter was brought to iProbono by Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) and needed immediate action. Advocate Mr. Siddharth Aggarwal, from iProbono's network, filed a Writ Petition in the Delhi High Court on behalf of the residents
- In 2017, we were asked by the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, part of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, to assist them in drafting a legal toolkit on child victims of cybercrime to be used by law enforcement agencies in the country. We successfully completed this and it will be distributed to law enforcement personnel nationwide. Mariam Faruqi, our South Asia Regional Director, received a letter from appreciation from the Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

- We are representing a minor survivor of gang sexual assault and attempt to murder. Three men kidnapped 14 year old Ishika (name changed) from outside her home, and sexually assaulted her over several days, after which they attempted to murder her. The assailants shot her twice in the chest before pushing her into a well. Miraculously Ishika survived and has lived to tell the tale. Gautam Khazanchi, Panel member, is representing the child. Two years after the incident, charges have now been framed. The case is pending.
  - In 2017, five mothers of children who have suffered sexual abuse filed a PIL in Delhi High Court against the denial of copies of case documents, charge sheets, and notices of bail hearings, in clear violation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act). The survivors' families were denied their right to be informed about the progress in the cases which led to them missing hearing dates, and in some cases, being unaware of the accused having been released on bail, leaving them prone to intimidation and violence. See the full report here: [NDTV Coverage](#)
- In 2016, We represented a 12-year old boy who was abused in school and through his case we changed the compensation scheme to treat boys and girls equally (this was reported in the [Indian Express](#) and [Times of India](#)).

### **Workshops**

- In 2017, we organized a [Pro bono week](#) in conjunction with National Law University Delhi (NLUD) to highlight the need for engagement between skilled lawyers and disadvantaged groups and individuals to enable inclusive access to justice.
- We have organised a series of seminars on safeguarding and [estate planning](#) for parents of children with vulnerabilities. We partnered with a number of organisations for these multi-city workshops – for example: [Action for Autism](#) etc.

### **Financial review**

#### **a. Policy on reserves**

In the Trustees' view, the reserves should provide the Charity with adequate financial stability and the means for it to meet its commitments for the foreseeable future taking account of the support it receives from sponsoring organisations and grant providers. The Trustees periodically review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil the Charity's continuing obligations.

#### **b. Resources**

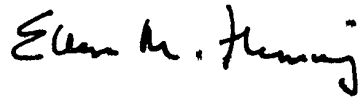
The Charity has no deficit. After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

#### **c. Principal sources of funds**

The Charity is funded by grants, donations and support in kind. Grant funding during the year to 30 April 2017 has been made available by the Ford Foundation, the Commonwealth Foundation and Erach and Roshan Sadri Foundation. Support in-kind valued at least £140,000 has been provided by Fieldfisher which includes providing programme support, office premises, marketing, IT, accounts, administration support, conference/events/workshop space and seconding senior members of staff.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 19 January 2018 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen M. Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ellen Fleming  
Chair