

THE VAVENGERS

A charity committed to ending
Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

**ANNUAL REVIEW +
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2020/21**



FOUNDING CHAIR: Mabel Evans

FOUNDING TRUSTEE: Hoda Ali

TRUSTEE: Soraya Ali

TRUSTEE: Laura Amaya

TRUSTEE: Cerys Shepherd

TRUSTEE: Najmo Fiyasko

CEO: Sema Gornall

The Vavengers is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
in England and Wales

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When Women Rise We All Rise

thevavengers.co.uk

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WELCOME: MABEL EVANS

In the final weeks of 2021, the UK is facing potentially another lockdown. We reflect on the last two years as an organisation and look back at what has been a challenging couple of years for many. The needs of those we support became acutely apparent as the UK went into lockdown in 2020. The Vavengers team has worked tirelessly to provide emergency support through our Community Ambassador partnership with our identified community leaders. We have run online public awareness campaigns reaching over 30,000 people. I am incredibly proud of The Vavengers team and all that has been accomplished.

Early in 2020 The Vavengers launched our COVID-19 response program, in partnership with community interest group 'Keep The Drum, Lose the Knife' (KDLK). The program, named 'Reaching Out to Your Community' was conceptualized by KDLK founder Sarian Kamara. When the pandemic struck Sarian saw the most vulnerable members of her community in Southwark Council facing dire consequences due to the lockdown restrictions.

When everyone began winding down and on furlough The Vavengers and KDLK team were working harder than ever. As a registered charity The Vavengers were able to fundraise for Sarian's idea and support her in the formulation of it, as well as support with monitoring and evaluation and partnership and outreach opportunities.

The program now provides food vouchers, 1:1 counseling, sexual and mental health workshops, FGM/C awareness and safeguarding sessions, distribution of essential household items and legal council to our beneficiaries. Many of whom have never come into contact with any government body, or support network.

Held at The Peckham Palms in Sarian's office and workshop space, the program has become a community hub for some of the most marginalised individuals in the Southwark area. When the Vavengers team visited the program we were blown away by the sense of community and support Sarian and her team have created.

Through this partnership The Vavengers have learnt and evolved through working closely with the KDLK team, Reaching out To Your Community has been funded by our wonderful partners at Choose Love, The Rothschild Foundation, The National Lottery Fund and more.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless work of our partners in the KDLK team, they have been a rock, a safe space and an inspiration to all of those they support and also for us in The Vavengers team. We have closely listened and learned through their extraordinary expertise. Our work will continue to be guided by those with lived experience, on the front line. The Vavengers seeks to ensure that individuals working tirelessly within their communities to create lasting change are supported and acknowledged for the work that they do.

The Vavengers team, as well as our partners, fundraisers and supporters are more driven and resilient than ever. The future looks unknown, however through The Vavengers unwavering commitment to our work, we will continue to grow stronger and learn how to better support our communities and our community ambassadors.

Best wishes,

Mabel Evans

Founding Chair



WELCOME: HODA ALI

The last year has been difficult for the world as a whole, and the women's rights sector has been no exception. Alongside the devastating effects of COVID-19, Gender Based Violence (GBV) has been referred to as 'the shadow pandemic.' Abuses against young women and girls throughout the world have continued and even increased.

But through the darkness has come immense moments of light. I've seen women from different sectors come together. People from different backgrounds join one another to help in the fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). My name is Hoda Ali and I'm an FGM survivor, campaigner and proud co-founder of The Vavengers alongside Mabel Evans. This year I've taken my work outside of charity boardrooms and into the classroom.

I've been leading a project at Perivale Primary School funded by John Lyon's Charity, where I host safeguarding sessions put on by the Ealing Health Improvement team and Perivale Primary School. These sessions are completely collaborative and involve work with children,

parents and school staff. I draw on my own personal experiences as an FGM survivor, my professional knowledge as a qualified nurse as well as the legal and statistical information surrounding FGM.

The importance of this project has been recognised by the John Lyon's charity. They have agreed to provide another 3 years of funding to put on the sessions in another 25 schools across Ealing, Brent and Harrow boroughs. With the help of The Vavengers I hope to keep educating, informing and connecting with people from all walks of life about what FGM is and how we can all work to protect young women and girls. This year has been massively transformative and transitional for our small but powerful charity. After several years at the helm our wonderful Mabel Evans has stepped down as CEO and will move into her new position, leading the Board of Trustees.

I met Mabel when she was just 17 years old and a bright-eyed young student. I gave a talk at her school about FGM. Ever since that day Mabel has been working tirelessly to help put an end to Gender-Based Violence. I am immensely proud of her but also very pleased to welcome our new CEO Sema Gornall. Sema is an exceptional young woman who has already accomplished so much in the sector. She is

making strides in transforming our charity and I am excited to see where she takes us.

Now, as I continue to teach the next generation about my personal journey and female empowerment as a whole, I am hopeful that my words may inspire others. I am confident that 2022 will be all about new beginnings and I thank you all for continuing to support myself, The Vavengers, and our ever-important work.

Best wishes,

Hoda Ali

Founding Trustee



WELCOME: SEMA GORNALL

The Vavengers is an incredibly inspiring organisation built by women for women. Co-founders Mabel and Hoda built a special foundation and volunteers, funders and supporters have made it possible for The Vavengers to find success in the sector in such a short amount of time even though the last few years have been extremely challenging.

I joined The Vavengers team in the last quarter of 2021 as the CEO when it was time for The Vavengers to grow following a high demand for the services provided. As soon as I joined The Vavengers, I felt like it was home. The team has been extremely supportive during my onboarding process and we are continuing to grow with new volunteers, staff and community ambassadors to achieve our goals.

In December 2021, we have completed our very first long-term strategic plan and 2022 is an exciting year ahead for our organisation. Our plan was created in line with the United Nation's goal of ending FGM/C in 2030. Moving forward, our work will continue to develop under three pillars: awareness & call to action campaigns,

educational programmes & outreach and direct response projects. The Vavengers will continue to work to achieve a reality where having choices is no longer considered a luxury for women and girls. As a woman who grew up in a patriarchal society that did not present many choices for women and girls, I am proud to be working with a powerhouse team in an organisation that exists to create a world where everyone is valued and equal.

I invite everyone to join us in our goal of ending FGM/C and Gender Based Violence so please get in touch with us to request a copy of our strategic plan and ways of getting involved.

Best wishes,



CEO



ENGAGEMENT REPORT

2021 marked a turning point in our marketing approach. It was the launch of our biggest digital campaign yet (What If You Knew), the first time we used paid advertising on social platforms, and we expanded the marketing team to include 3 new volunteers. The impact of these changes are replicated in the numbers shown on the following page and has set us up for a 2022 to be filled with even bigger ones!

Best wishes,

Megan Barclay

Head of Design & Marketing



Mini ENGAGEMENT REPORT

180+

Refugees & Asylum seekers supported with legal advice, essential items and pastoral care. The work of the project leader, Sarian, was continually celebrated on our socials.

3

New marketing & design volunteers

139,958

Instagram & Facebook reach

200+

Informative posts on social media

30,657

Online public awareness campaigns reaching over 160,000 people

Views of our WIYK film campaign (IGTV)



Calls, meetings, & inspiring chats

*Infinite

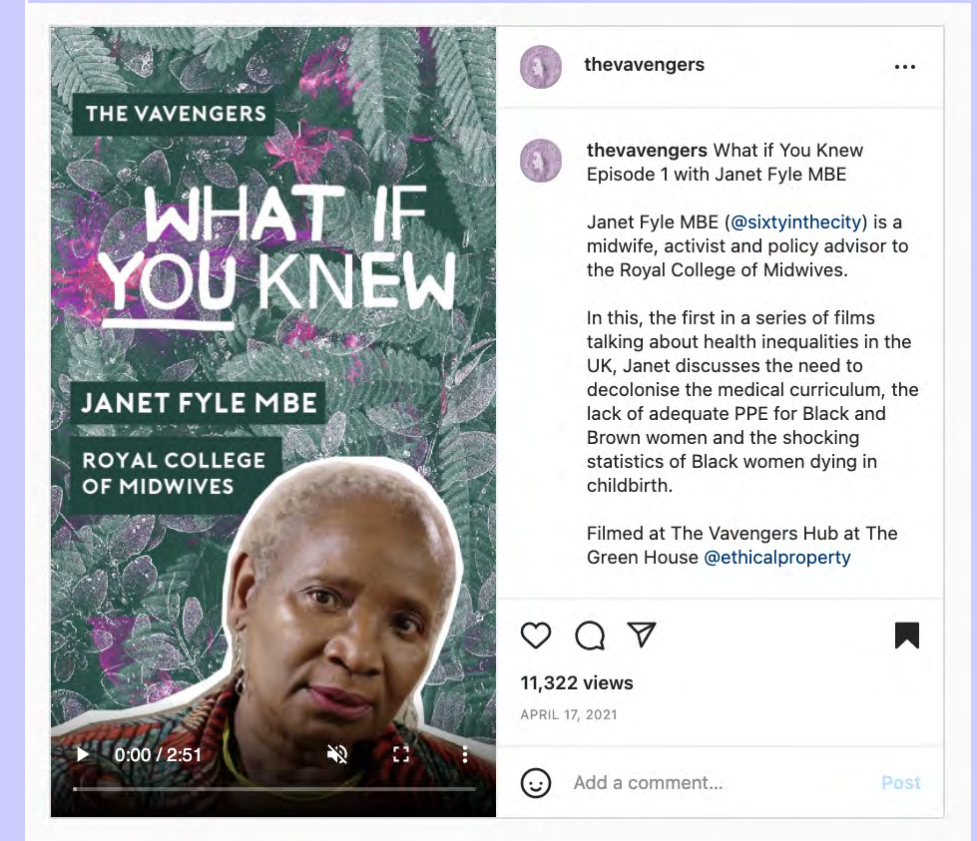


WHAT IF YOU KNEW CAMPAIGN

Our in-house campaign ‘What if You Knew’, was directed by our Founding Chair Mabel Evans, produced by our Trustee Soraya Ali, and designed by our Head of Design & Marketing Megan Barclay. and released by our marketing team made up of volunteers – it was seen by over 30,000 people.

The campaign focused on the health inequalities affecting minoritised women in the UK as well as challenging the knowledge gap. In the digital series, we hosted our Community Ambassadors and long-time campaigners in the field: Leyla Hussein OBE, a Somali-British Psychotherapist, award-winning activist and Founder of the Dahlia Project, Magool and Co-founder of Safe Spaces for Black Women. Aissa Edon, a Midwife and activist, and Janet Fyle MBE, a Professional Policy Advisor to Royal College of Midwives.

Watch the ‘What if You Knew’ series on our [YouTube](#) or [IGTV](#).



REACHING OUT TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Reaching Out to Your Community (ROTYC) is our community-outreach project in Peckham, London in collaboration with Keep the Drum Lose the Knife (KDLK).

A huge thank you to our community project partner KDLK and our Community Ambassador, Sarian Karim-Kamara (right), the Founder of KDLK. Sarian and many volunteers have been running the support hub tirelessly and allocating the funds raised where necessary to support FGM/C survivors and family members.

In 2020/21, the support lines to nearly 200 people included: essential items, food & travel vouchers, mental & sexual health sessions, workshops on the harms of FGM/C, one to one or couple well-being sessions, homelessness referral. We are incredibly proud of our partnership with KDLK and work to continue raising funds from our generous donors to support the hub.



FINANCIAL REPORT

The Vavengers have had a strong financial year despite dealing with the challenges of the pandemic in which our main stream of revenue (public events) was effectively stopped. Despite these hurdles, donations via funding bodies have increased eightfold which means we can reach and support more people now and in the future. Our total Income for the year ending April'21 was £81,669 which was nearly an eightfold increase on prior year. We were fortunate to receive £42k from the UK Home Office which accounted for more than 50% of our funding. The remaining donations came from organisations such as “The Prism Gift Fund” and “Groundwork UK”. With their help we have continued to provide workshops and amenities to some of the most vulnerable and forgotten people in society.

On the other hand, our administrative costs increased by nearly 100%. A large portion of this was paying for rent and office staff to deal with the increased workload that came with significant demand. Some of our staff had previously been long-time volunteers and they became part-time paid staff when we released our first paid jobs.

We continue to rely heavily on donations from the public. Despite our growth in income nearly 100% of this is restricted income and allocated to project work and supporting the community. We have to continue to work hard to raise additional funds to meet the minimum operating cost requirements so that we can make our services available in more regions. Increasing our funding from unrestricted sources is crucial to continuing the growth of The Vavengers and our strategic plan.

Restricted funds are only available for expenditure as directed by the donor. This money is expected to be used over the next two to three financial years. The trustees have assessed the charity's work and our year end accounts will be submitted and reviewed by the accountants KBC. Please continue supporting us whether you have funds available for our projects, volunteering time or pro-bono services that you can offer. In the last year, our work received an overwhelming demand and we can only continue to support our beneficiaries with your support.

Best wishes,



Chief Financial Officer



FINANCIAL REPORT

A breakdown of where funds for the year were received:

FUNDER	£
Home office	42,269.00
Choose Love	19,900.00
Comic Relief	1,000.00
The Rothschild	1,000.00
The Blue Thread	5,000.00
Private donations	10,000.00
Safe Lives Fund	2,500.00
TOTAL	81,669.00

 ROTHSCHILD FOUNDATION
 Home Office
 COMIC RELIEF
 CHOOSE LOVE
 Safe Lives
 Ending domestic abuse





*Thank you to everyone
who has supported us!*

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