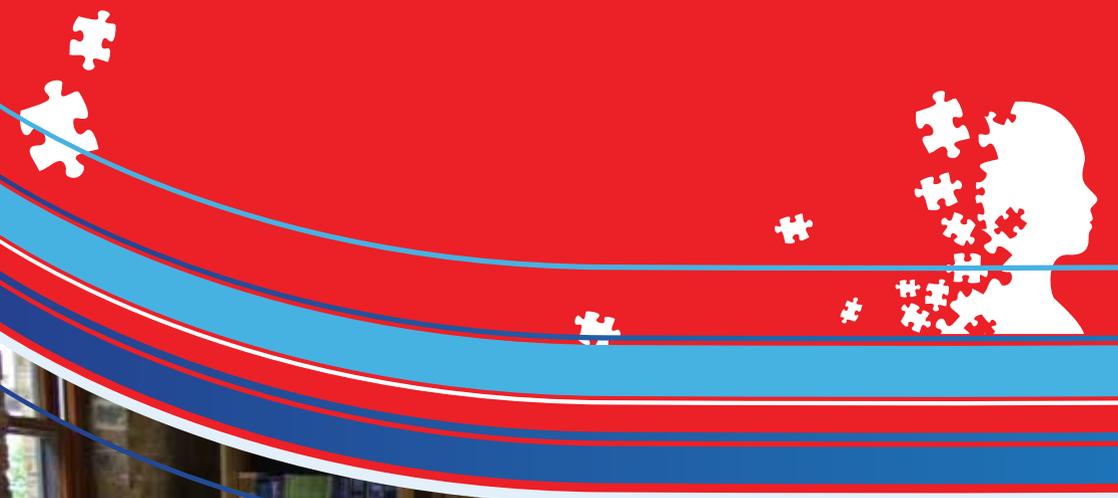


INDEPENDENT ACADEMIC RESEARCH STUDIES

IMPACT REPORT 2010-11

Giving young people a voice



IARS

Independent Academic Research Studies

Empowering young people to influence policy and practice



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Our mission:

To be a youth-led organisation that will enable and empower young people to take leadership and develop ownership over their lives and future, champion and pioneer world-class practices, and support their peers and other youth-led groups to inform policy, practice and the law, particularly in the areas of criminal justice, human rights, restorative justice, youth services and equality.





WHO WE ARE

IARS is an independent, social policy think-tank with a charitable mission to enable young people from all walks of life to have a better future and participate equally and democratically in civic life. IARS Young People inform and influence policies and practices affecting them, particularly in the areas of citizenship and civic engagement, criminal justice, human rights, equality, restorative justice and education. Through a youth-led structure, IARS aims to create a safer and more tolerant and equal society.

“I have been with IARS for around 11 months now. I originally got involved by signing up for the Certificate in Youth Policy. **I never thought in a million years that I would be doing a University course as school was never my thing**, but here I am in my last 2 months!

I’ve gained so much confidence while studying and volunteering at IARS. I recently sat on a panel in front of 100 people discussing the new proposal for the changes to police Stop and Search powers. Needless to say I was nervous, but I got through it and I was so proud of myself for standing my ground and voicing my opinions. I’ve enjoyed everything I’ve taken part in at IARS and I’m so grateful for the opportunities I have been given.”



Danni Briggs, 20



The charity achieves its aims by:

- providing direct services to young people (e.g. high quality volunteering opportunities, tailored training and skills development programmes, accreditation)
- providing voice and representation of issues affecting young people
- acting as an independent, youth-led consultancy and social policy think-tank
- carrying out youth-led research to inform youth matters
- informing strategic decision makers about issues affecting young people.

The IARS Team

IARS Patrons



Lord Charlie Falconer



Sir George Newman



Prof. Francesca Klug OBE



Trevor Phillips OBE

Part-time Volunteers & Interns

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Kamer Dunnus | Sheree Prospere | John Teamrat |
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| Sufia Shahnawaz | Rubaiya Yasmin | Jabrane Iguider |
| Jane Namugwana | Sabrina Jahan | Tatiana Garavito |
| Grace Anstey | Sultana Zesmin | Danni Briggs |
| Shruti Morzaria | Asma Ali Farah | Alex Amileke |
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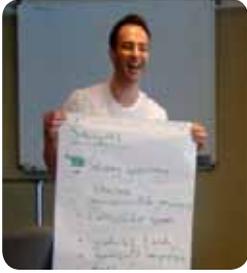
P/A to the Director and Office
Administrator: Sara h Topa



Finance Officer: Hatixhe Demushi



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER & DIRECTOR



Dr. Theo Gavrielides

I remember writing to my trustees and staff team, just before the 2010 Spending Review, saying how challenging the coming months were going to be. I was a bit emotional, nothing they had not seen before as I am known for my Greek-British temperament!

We felt that the belt tightening combined with the policy, political and

institutional changes required us to develop a strategy that was aligned perfectly with current demands. I asked everyone to open their top drawers and push in everything they had on their desks. And so we did, and this shows the sort of organisation that I am proud to lead. We do not dwell or pay attention to the microcosm of personalities, missed opportunities and egos, but we do try to learn from our mistakes.

This time, instead of producing our annual report, we decided to focus on the impact we have made for the individual and the society rather than list how many training sessions, events, reports and research projects we did.

Independent Academic Research Studies is not an easy organisation to sell. The same goes for our name which remains the key topic for all marketing workshops we've had since our establishment in 2001. But we always end up agreeing that it is the best name. This is because we do exactly what it says on the tin, and we know that there is nothing equivalent at a regional, national or international level. We develop the skills, knowledge and confidence in any young person who comes to us to carry out their "independent", "academically" accredited, "research" "studies" to create an evidence base for making changes around them. This is usually done through their policy work, their campaigning activities, working with the media and, of course, our partners.

And we do not keep this expertise in-house. We want to develop the capacity of other organisations to do what we do. That is why we are proud to have increased our partnerships this year. Probably, the biggest partnership group supporting our work is the 99% Campaign Partners Group consisting of

key agencies such as the Mayor of London, Transport for London, Metropolitan Police, Crown Prosecution and Youth Justice Board as well as like-minded charities.

The value of user-led, evidence-based policy and youth leadership is slowly being acknowledged.

I know we have done and will continue to do our bit in dispelling the myth that young people can't do robust research. With the support of our international Academic & Editorial Board and through our own peer review Youth Voice Journal, we have shown that this is not true; and this goes for any young person whether in a top university, youth offending team, school, college, prison or out of employment. We are also doing our bit to dispel stereotypes and negative perceptions of young people and continue to pilot new youth-led projects on criminal justice reform, restorative justice, human rights, education and equality.

The future remains uncertain, but exciting. Thanks to the support of our funders and sponsors we have

taken on new challenges such as the 99% Campaign and a European-wide, youth-led policy programme under Youth in Action. A big thank you to Elena Noel, our departing Chair, who has supported me for six years. I remain indebted to my staff team and my trustees and of course to all the young people who believe in us. As a charity, relying on grants and donations it is vital that we continue to receive your support and I hope that this report does tell last year's story and what we have done with the charitable funds that were entrusted to us. We look forward to welcoming new members to the IARS family and, of course, continue working with current users, supporters and partners.



A MESSAGE FROM A YOUNG PERSON



Lois Horowitz once said that “Not having the information you need when you need it leaves you wanting. Not knowing where to look for that information leaves you powerless.”

Thomas Jefferson also depicted information as the currency of democracy.

In September last year, I had the opportunity to be placed on an *IARS full scholarship* to study for their Certificate in Youth Policy. As part of the course, I volunteered on a research project on youth violence on public transport, I attended numerous training days and received group and individual supervisions.

Through IARS, I have been exposed to a number of opportunities that have contributed to making me a better person. As a result of the training I have been able to develop advocacy skills and know my rights as a young person. Also, IARS taught me how to carry out research, which is a skill that I will use to pursue personal and professional ambitions. Most importantly, IARS offered me the opportunity to have a say on matters that affect me and other young people. I particularly enjoyed being on a young people panel at a meeting with some MPs regarding the increase in tuition fees and reduction of funds released to the third sector.

The number one goal of IARS has always been to empower young people to take leadership and develop ownership over their lives. Through their support we genuinely get a chance to inform policy, practice and the law that affects us. Their services give young people a sense of responsibility and helps us to develop a voice in a positive way.

The kind of qualities that IARS young people develop allows them to gain a sense of know-how having developed advocacy and research skills to help them make a positive impact on their society. *The difference between an MP that goes through relevant protocols to influence policy and a group of young people that start a riot to influence policy is simply knowledge, confidence and a set of skills.* IARS offers young people the sort of support and services that genuinely help us to acquire the knowledge and skills to participate equally and responsibly in society.

This makes IARS one of the organisations that young people, the society and the future needs.

AMILKE ALEX JOSEPH, 19



CHANGING YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES



We are dedicated to empowering the lives of young people who want a better future for themselves and others. We provide opportunities for them to develop their skills & confidence, and enable them to contribute their views and experiences to IARS' 'youth voice'.

In the last year alone, IARS provided:



- Volunteer & internship placements to over 300 young people
- Free training and other skill development programmes to them
- Full scholarships and the IARS Certificate in Youth Policy (accredited via London Metropolitan Univ)
- Youth Achievement and other awards
- Youth-led voice and representation of issues affecting the young people's sector and helped inform and improve services for young people.

Charley and Hannah are an example of the young people whose involvement with IARS has opened doors to future opportunities that they did not previously have. With your help these and other young people will continue to nurture their talents and pursue their dreams.



Hannah has cerebral palsy and volunteered with IARS for two years (2008 - 2010). During her time at IARS, Hannah represented the organisation at various events and designed marketing material for projects. She completed both a v50 award and a vimpact award. Hannah became a champion to show other young people that disability is not a barrier to achieving ambitions and changing society.

"During my time at IARS, I've found I can communicate better with people as a whole, and have developed research skills from both participating and facilitating focus groups. I feel more confident and able to voice my thoughts and support others in doing the same."



CHARLEY, 20

CHANGING SOCIETY

Our research, youth-led projects and programmes help us to build a body of solid evidence to enable policy development for a better society. All our projects are evaluated by our Youth Advisory Group, while our publications and research are quality controlled by the IARS Academic & Editorial Board. In 2010-11, we carried out the following projects

Clergy Child Sexual Abuse: The Restorative Justice Paradigm This is an international project that looked at the impact of child sexual abuse cases that occurred within the Catholic Church and proposed alternative methods to resolve them based on restorative justice.

Drawing Together Research, Policy and Practice for Restorative Justice In partnership with various universities, through this project, we aimed to initiate an international debate that will assist the development of improved practices, better informed policy and more grounded research on restorative justice.

London Youth Now A policy awareness raising and training project which seeks to ensure that young people and organisations working with them can tackle hate crime and promote community cohesion in London.

Restorative Justice with Incarcerated Young People Project Carried out as part of the European-wide Mediation and Restorative Justice in Prison Settings (MEREPS) project, this research focused on the role of restorative justice with incarcerated young people in England and Wales. A national strategy was developed as a result.

Rights & Restoration within Youth Justice This is an edited, peer-reviewed volume of original papers written by leading scholars in the fields of restorative justice, human rights and youth justice. The Editor, Dr. Gavrielides, carries out this project under the auspices of IARS and various universities worldwide.

The 3E Model for a Restorative Justice Strategy in Europe In partnership with various universities from Europe, this project seeks to construct an effective, economic European strategy model for the diffusion of restorative justice as a response to crime.

London Youth Volunteering Project A project which aims to ensure that all young people across London are better able to engage with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Young Arab Research Network Through this project and in partnership with British Council, we set up a unique network of young researchers in the Middle East. The project involved face-to-face training and research.

Young Justice Champions Project A cutting edge public legal education project equipping young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to deal with law related every day events.

Youth Advisory Board (LSYVB) A ground-breaking project initiated by the London Serious Youth Violence Board (LSYVB) and the Metropolitan Police Service to assist police strategies in preventing violence amongst young people.

The Changing Role of Muslim Women's Participation in Sporting Events: 1948 to the Present Day A heritage project that seeks to empower young women to explore and preserve the hidden history of the changing role of Muslim women's participation in sporting events in the UK since 1948 to the present day.

Youth in Action Under the EU's Youth in Action this project aims to inspire a sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future.



LOOKING FORWARD

IARS has identified strategic aims for future activities. These relate to the function and role of IARS as a youth-led charity working directly with young people, youth-led organisations and others. These strategies help to determine the focus and desired outcomes of all IARS' project activities, and the emphasis of any future plans:

1. Empower young people to influence, shape and inform policy and practices that affect them.
2. Provide youth-led policy development, research and voice to youth issues at local, national, European and international level.
3. Work with government and statutory bodies to ensure that youth issues and views are heard and disseminated.
4. Pilot new ideas in order to demonstrate new youth-led models, opportunities and emerging good practice for the benefit of young people and their sector.
5. Act as a European network that enables young people and their sector to communicate with each other, work together and share best practice with the ultimate goal of encouraging debates on youth policies affecting local, national and European matters and practices.
6. Build bridges between young people from different communities and countries, and encourage them to find out what unites rather than divides them. Promote intercultural learning and understanding and encourage youth exchanges and voluntary services.
7. Engage young people at risk of exclusion into educational and skills development through non-formal education, tailored training and support programmes, provide accreditation options, the work - based IARS Certificate in Youth Policy and Youth Awards.



"2010-11 has been the most exciting year yet. Not only have we continued to grow due to our dynamic and creative approach, but also make a significant impact on society. Whether this was by working with the Police on operational policing, piloting new research, adopting the pan-London 99% Campaign, or giving our volunteers university accredited education opportunities, the ripples of our work spread further than ever.

2011-12 will be about the 99% Campaign, our EU Youth in Action Programme, distributing on a global scale our refereed journal Youth Voice, influencing policy, and of course making a difference to young people's lives. We can make all of this happen due to the special combination of skills and qualities that IARS' people have: research, law and policy expertise and a commercial but common sense approach to what matters."

Lewis Parle, Programme Director

The 99% Campaign

IARS has been entrusted with the 99% campaign, a pan-london, youth-led initiative that brings together key public, private and civil society organisations to dispel stereotypes about young people and make the capital a better, safer and more inclusive place.



The 99% poster in the tube

The project was developed by young londoners under the auspices of the now defunct London Serious Youth Violence Board. The campaign is now run with the support of a Core Partners' Group including the Youth Justice Board, Mayor of London, Transport for London, Metropolitan Police, London Councils, the Crown Prosecution Service, Bexley and Ealing Councils as well as key charities such as the Jack Petchey Foundation, Leap, YMCA, the Princes Trust and others.

The campaign runs several projects such a large scale poster campaign in London tube and over-ground stations.

Through the 99% Campaign:

1. "Disadvantaged thinking" about young people is addressed and positive stories are promoted.
2. Negative perceptions and stereotypes about young people are tackled.
3. New youth opportunities are created while current opportunities are highlighted and enhanced by making them part of a kite-marking partnership movement that uses the 99% brand to recognise high quality positive engagement youth projects within the objectives of the 99%.

"I am delighted that the 99% campaign, developed and launched by the London Serious Youth Violence Board, will continue on as a legacy project under the directorship and guidance of Independent Academic Research Studies (IARS). IARS have been closely associated with the Board through its Youth Advisory Board (YAB). The YAB have acted as a youth led forum and sounding board to enable the voice of young people to be heard on the work and direction of the LSVVB."

Will Tuckley, Chair of the London serious Youth Violence Board and Chief Executive of the London Borough of Bexley



99PERCENT.ORG.UK

To sign up to the 99% Pledge and for sponsorship opportunities e-mail 99percentcampaign@iars.org.uk



RESOURCES AND HOW WE USED THEM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2011

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2011	2011	2011	2010
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income	43,066	231,225	274,291	184,146
Investment income	82	-	82	33
Incoming resources from charitable activities	16,536	-	16,536	25,038
Other incoming resources	318	-	318	1,530
Total incoming resources	60,002	231,225	291,227	210,747
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating funds				
Costs of generating voluntary income	1,624	5,102	6,726	2,834
Charitable activities	9,363	252,393	261,756	147,013
Governance costs	-	2,330	2,330	1,489
Total resources expended	10,987	259,825	270,812	151,336
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	49,015	(28,600)	20,415	59,411
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	49,015	(28,600)	20,415	59,411
Total funds brought forward	55,955	50,094	106,049	46,638
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	104,970	21,494	126,464	106,049

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2011

	2011	2010
Fixed Assets	£	£
Tangible assets	135	270
	135	270
Current Assets		
Debtors	10,050	13,318
Cash at bank and in hand	120,545	120,077
	130,595	133,395
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	4,266	27,616
Net current assets	126,329	105,779
Total Net Assets	126,464	106,049
The funds of the charity		
Restricted income funds	21,494	50,094
Unrestricted income funds	104,970	55,955
Total Funds	126,464	106,049

For the year ended 31 March 2011, the company was entitled to the exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Responsibilities of directors/trustees:

- The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act - however, in accordance with Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner whose report forms part of this document.
- The directors/trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

Adam Fellows, IARS Treasurer



IARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & YOUTH VOICE JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION

Subscription to Youth Voice Journal (2 issues), combined with a 1 year IARS membership is offered at the suggested price of £20

Other IARS member benefits:

- Monthly Members' E-Bulletins
- The opportunity to be part of high-profile social research
- Copies of all of IARS' e-publications
- Regular updates on all policies affecting the interests of young people
- Membership to the IARS website
- Invitations to events
- Reduced costs for all our hard copy publications

If you are interested in purchasing a subscription to Youth Voice Journal and becoming an IARS member, please fill out the form below and return to:
IARS, 159 Clapham Road, London, SW9 0PU, UK

or visit our website
www.iars.org.uk

Direct BACS: (Please include your name and contact details)	HSBC BANK
Acc. no:	21591584
Sort code:	40 - 06 - 29
Name:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
Phone no:	<input type="text"/>
I enclose a cheque payable to IARS for	£ <input type="text" value="20.00"/>
Or please charge my credit/debit card	£ <input type="text" value="20.00"/>
Card type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Debit <input type="checkbox"/> Maestro <input type="checkbox"/>
Card no:	<input type="text"/>
Valid from:	<input type="text"/>
Security code:	<input type="text"/>
Name on card:	<input type="text"/>
Signature:	<input type="text"/>
Date:	<input type="text"/>
Expiry date:	<input type="text"/>
Issue no:	<input type="text"/>

In 2010 – 2011 IARS was funded and sponsored by:



As a charity, IARS relies on grants, sponsors and charitable funds to deliver its charitable aims and make a difference for young people. We work closely with our funders and sponsors to ensure that their expectations and vision are met. If you would like more information on how to support our mission please contact IARS' Director, Dr. Theo Gavrielides T.Gavrielides@iars.org.uk

COMPANY NO: 5348191 | CHARITY NO: 1124590



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