03 04

Connecting people with politics
The Westminster Foundation for Democracy works to achieve sustainable political change in emerging democracies. Its programmes are centred on its capacity to undertake party development work, across the political spectrum, through the Westminster political parties. This is complemented by parliamentary, civil society and other non-partisan initiatives. In its activities priority is given to the European Union’s eastern neighbours and Africa and it is developing its interest in the Middle East.

"Although civil society is a vital part of new democracies, there is no substitute for political parties to connect citizens to the political process. But the challenge all over the world is to help parties build deeper ties to their societies and avoid the trap of purely elite-based representation."

Thomas Carothers, Director, Democracy and Rule of Law Project, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

"Insufficient attention has been paid to the considerable importance of parliaments in connecting people with politics, particularly at the local level. A democratic parliament which scorns patronial and clientelistic networks, but instead promotes inclusiveness, is the key recipe for peaceful co-existence among its people."

Zainab Bangura, Executive Director, National Accountability Group, Sierra Leone

"One of the most serious challenges of the post-communist era has been how to avoid building a ‘male middle-aged democracy’, i.e., how to secure the participation of women and young people in political life, both on the local and national levels. In the exciting and often troublesome process of democracy-building it is absolutely essential to secure the creative energy of these two groups. Otherwise the very essence of democracy is jeopardised."

Sonja Licht, President, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy was established in 1992. Its main source of income is a grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, currently £4.1 million per annum, and it raises additional funding to support its programmes.

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy is an independent agency sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It is a non-departmental public body and a company limited by guarantee. Its Board of Governors, which has 14 members, is constituted on a cross-party basis and appointed by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. There are six independent governors, while eight are nominated by the Westminster political parties – three Labour, three Conservative, one Liberal Democrat and one representative of the smaller parties.
“Successful politics is about connecting politicians with those whom they represent and serve. Even in western democracies we can too easily take this for granted. The Westminster Foundation for Democracy has developed the ability to help politicians make these connections in some of the most difficult countries of the world, where ordinary citizens have least had the opportunity of effective representation.

“I am delighted that the Foundation has taken the opportunity in the last year to review its approach and methods. I am sure that, as a result, it will deepen the contribution which it makes to the vital task of political reform and democracy-building internationally.”

The Rt Hon Michael Martin, MP, Speaker of the House of Commons

“Having been involved in WFD activity, I have seen the benefit of its unique approach first hand. WFD enables the British political parties to provide practical bilateral co-operation in new and newly emerging democracies, focusing on the development of strong and accountable political parties providing choice for their electorate.”

The Rt Hon Michael Howard, QC, MP, Conservative Party Leader & Leader of Her Majesty’s Opposition

“Political parties remain key to effective democracy. Our work as the Liberal Democrats through WFD encourages capacity development for centrist/liberal democratic parties, promoting parties which are accountable, democratic both internally and externally, policy-based, and with a strong membership base. Our thanks go to WFD for the opportunity to do this.”

The Rt Hon Charles Kennedy, MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Introduction from the Chairman

Since its establishment 12 years ago, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy has played a vital role working with the Westminster-based political parties to assist the development of civil society, pluralistic political systems and democratic political parties in transition countries. Today we face new challenges and new opportunities to assist the process of political reform and good governance and to meet the unfulfilled aspirations of hundreds of millions of our fellow world citizens.

Events over the last year in Iraq, Afghanistan and other post-conflict societies have clearly demonstrated that there is no single simple model for democratic transformation – whether ‘European’, ‘American’ or ‘Westminster’. One interesting development of note is that activists from central and eastern European countries are increasingly being asked for advice from countries in transition in the Middle East and Africa.

It has always been fundamental to our approach that we work to support local partners – reformers who want to advance the cause of political development and democracy. Last year we adopted a comprehensive new strategy centred around our capacity to design and deliver co-ordinated party-to-party political development programmes in the countries in which we work. The strategy recognises the strength derived from WFD’s unique structure which enables it to undertake party political work on a multi-party basis, within one organisation. In future any civil society work that we undertake will be complementary to this priority.

The Foundation has agreed to strengthen its commitment to working in two regions: ‘Europe’s Neighbours’ and Africa. WFD is also aiming to work in the Middle East. We retain a limited facility to continue making small grants in other regions.

We are moving away from funding unrelated projects and towards primarily a strategy for country-based programmes involving contributions from more than one component part of the organisation.

Resources available to the WFD are very limited compared to the much larger sums which are given to similar organisations in other countries such as the USA and Germany. But our budget of only £4.1 million this year from our sponsoring department, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has a significant impact because of the way in which we are structured and the way in which we are able to operate. We could do so much more given additional resources.

I hope you will enjoy reading this review and learning more of our activities, interests and methods.

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP, Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party

“Labour is committed to building democracy, freedom and stability around the world. We believe that in promoting democracy, tackling instability and fighting poverty we can bring hope of advancement to all nations. We will continue to work with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy towards this objective.”

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP, Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party

The Foundation has to its activities a growing Board of Governors representing the main UK political parties.

Mike Gapes MP,
Chairman of the Board of Governors
Chief Executive’s report

Democracy has become a by-word internationally for the values and rights we in the west take for granted: the right of citizens to live in freedom under the law, to pursue a cause and to leave their mark on society. We take it for granted that the mix of institutions which make up ‘mature’ western democracies – political parties, parliaments, an independent judiciary and free press, an active civil society – are the best means to this end. But too often, in mature as well as emerging democracies, institutions become disconnected from citizens.

Democracy that works for everybody

Democracy assistance is still a young discipline, but one which is growing fast as governments, academics and practitioners come to realise its potential in supporting the development of open and diverse societies – in helping to foster better connections between political life and the people it is there to represent.

With public interest in international democracy-building as strong as it now is, the last year has been an extraordinary time for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy to reflect on its first decade and to lay plans to strengthen its contribution in its second.

The strategy adopted by the Board of Governors in July 2003 was the result of six months of work by both Board and staff, in consultation with some of our closest stakeholders. The Foundation is uniquely structured as a coalition of interests including all the Westminster political parties. So it is not surprising that the new strategy stresses the importance of political parties as a sine qua non of effective democracy.

It also recognises that strong parliaments, public institutions, a free press and the wide range of organisations which make up civil society all contribute to an interlocking network of checks and balances that enable democracy to work for all citizens.

Key principles

WFD works in different regions – eastern Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and increasingly the Middle East. We know that priorities in one political culture may be less relevant elsewhere. Work cannot be simply transplanted from one situation to another.

We recognise that building the cornerstones of democracy takes time, particularly in war-torn societies or those emerging from an authoritarian regime. So we are moving away from a tradition of supporting single projects (often without staying with them to maintain continuity) to a new approach of developing wider and deeper programmes in fewer countries, where we shall set specific objectives and work to achieve them over time. Country- or sometimes thematic – programmes are fast becoming the framework for the Foundation’s development.

We know that democracy has to be home-grown. The shaping of a democracy must in the end be the work of those who will live by the national and local institutions they create. Influences from outside can help, they can never replace. So one important principle which has always guided our work remains unchanged: we work wherever we can with and through local partners, whether they are political parties which Westminster parties can partner, local organisations achieving a real engagement with their governments, or parliaments themselves.

Sharing good practice

In developing the new strategy we also wanted to reflect, with some of our partner organisations in Europe, Africa, the US and elsewhere, on developments in democracy-building. As a public body we are accountable to our funders – mainly the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We share with the FCO a commitment to ensuring that we are continuing to increase our impact, to make a real difference even in the most difficult settings.

So in March 2004 we worked with Wilton Park, the FCO’s conference centre, to run a conference on the practice of political party development. We, and our participants, learned much in the process.

WFD’s model of political party work, based on party-to-party relationships, has distinctive strengths. There is a power and directness when politicians connect with politicians to share their experience and develop their art; and one of the distinctive features of WFD is its ability to work in this way. But we know that it works better where there is political affinity between the parties concerned, less well where there is not. Parties can function well when parliaments are strong. When both parties and parliaments are weak, civil society can move to fill the void in ways that eventually undermine political life.

These are challenging times to be in the world of international political development and reform; challenges to which the Westminster Foundation for Democracy is responding with a new strength and determination. In the following pages we explain some of the ways we help to connect politics with citizens, to ensure that people get the politics they deserve.

David French, Chief Executive
Connecting people with politics

Democracy works best when political institutions – parties, parliaments, local government – are close to voters. To connect, voters need to be able to make their needs understood; elected representatives to explain what they are doing to meet those needs.

No democracy can claim to understand and reflect the views of the whole population perfectly, but it’s particularly tough for new and emerging democracies to achieve this connection. They need support in developing strong institutions that can effectively understand the will of the population and translate it into a legislative programme.

This is a huge task and encompasses political parties, local government and parliaments, as well as civil society groups and vital supporting institutions such as the media.

If democratic institutions are weak, or inaccessible to voters, or they seem to represent some parts of the population more than others, they are failing to connect people with politics, and democracy suffers.

We have seen evidence of this in recent elections in Bosnia, Serbia and Montenegro and Malawi where low election turnouts have demonstrated citizens’ disenchantment with politics.

In Africa and in Europe alike, parties and political institutions are experiencing a loss of public trust. This doesn’t mean there is less support for democracy – in either the old or newer democracies – but it is a cause for concern which WFD strives to tackle in its work.

We recognize that strong parties must be complemented by other components of the political system. A key part of our work is building on the skills and capacity of political institutions such as parliaments and local government. We support co-operation between parties and civil society organisations – particularly those that represent the citizens marginalised from the political process – as a way to strengthen responses to popular needs and attitudes. And we work to enhance the media as a source of reliable and independent information.

Through its work, WFD strives to engage citizens in political processes by helping them have their say and encouraging and enabling democratic institutions to listen. Over the last year our work has continued to connect people with politics around the world.

"If democratic institutions are weak, or inaccessible to voters, or they seem to represent some parts of the population more than others, they are failing to connect people with politics, and democracy suffers."
Political party development

Labour

Labour’s roots are internationalist and we have always recognised our global responsibilities. We have supported parties in Africa, the Balkans, central and eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and other parts of the world. This included developing their organisation, infrastructure, media relations, election activity, campaigning and policy-making processes. Promoting women and youth in politics is an essential feature of the Labour Party’s work, and we organised projects to encourage women in public life and to train future leaders.

"Support of the Labour Party was crucial in sharing and learning from each other. There is clearly a huge opportunity for the African parties to learn and parties was an important way to increase trust in the political process. The participants felt that the personal behaviour of individual politicians was essential feature of the Labour Party’s work, and we organised projects to encourage women in public life and to train future leaders.

Labour’s roots are internationalist and we have always recognised our global responsibilities. We have supported parties in Africa, the Balkans, central and eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and other parts of the world. This included developing their organisation, infrastructure, media relations, election activity, campaigning and policy-making processes. Promoting women and youth in politics is an essential feature of the Labour Party’s work, and we organised projects to encourage women in public life and to train future leaders.

Outreach in Mongolia

One of our major programmes this year has been in training political activists in Mongolia in the run-up to their general election in June. Mongolia is as big as western Europe, with very few roads and a population of under three million people, 40 per cent of whom live a nomadic lifestyle. In line with our belief that democracy should start at the grassroots, trainers travelled thousands of miles to train 700 activists from the Motherland-Democratic Party Coalition.

Mongolia has the same ‘first past the post’ election system as the UK. We were able to share practical experience in organising election campaigns and in developing ways to reach out to the electorate. The activists adopted and implemented the British techniques successfully during the election.

This training was timely and significant, and enriched our own personal experience. Especially impressive was the teaching methodology – which was a mixture of discussion and role-play. We learned a lot of things necessary for campaigning. Thank you.”

Local activist, Democratic Party of Mongolia

Conservatives

The values and institutions of democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty are at the heart of the Conservative tradition and we promote them through our WFD programmes. During the last year we worked with 32 centre-right parties from 27 countries. Alongside party-to-party work we continue to develop regional centre-right political networks in central and eastern Europe and anglophone Africa, bringing parties together to share expertise in campaigning, party organisation and policy development.

The SNP carried out an assessment visit to Georgia.

Smaller Parties

Over the last year, the Smaller Parties laid foundations for future work in our key issues of decentralisation, conflict resolution, civic nationalism and local government.

The Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDL) and the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) carried out cross-party work in Africa supporting the development of economic policy.

The UUP, in collaboration with the Conservative Party, invited a group of Lithuanian political activists to learn from the British political system.

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) carried out a successful assessment visit to Kenya and is planning further work there in 2005-06.

Plaid Cymru and the Scottish National Party (SNP) explored possibilities of co-operation in Mozambique.

The SNP carried out an assessment visit to Georgia.

United in Namibia

In November 2003, the SNP brought politicians from Namibia’s political parties together for a series of seminars on ‘Unity of Purpose’. Our aim was to develop mutual respect between politicians. At times there were difficulties in communication between more senior politicians and the younger activists, but this developed into an opportunity for politicians from different age groups and parties to exchange ideas in a neutral environment, both within and outside the formal seminars. The seminars were also successful in bringing people together from around the country, something that long distances prevent from happening frequently.

Liberal Democrats

This year, the Liberal Democrats have conducted project work in Europe, Africa and Asia. Our work remains focused on political party development, working to strengthen parties which are policy-based, democratic both internally and externally, and based on mass-membership.

Africa is an area where project work continues both on a pan-African basis (primarily in promoting women in politics), and with individual partner parties. In Europe, we continue to work directly with sister parties, several of which fought elections this year, putting the skills they have developed into action. In Asia, work concentrated on encouraging young people to participate in political parties.

Skilling up in Africa

The Liberal Democrats ran a training workshop for women political activists across Africa. The workshop encouraged the women to share best practice, ideas and skills, and to promote women’s participation in politics.

Thirty-five women, drawn from 12 countries and 14 parties, took part: the mix of participants from governing and opposition parties, and parties from across Africa, allowed for a rich exchange of ideas. The women improved their skills in public speaking, building and leading a team, working with the media and organising election campaigns. During a mock press conference participants posing as journalists quizzed fellow participants, putting the skills they had learned into practice.

“I now believe I can stand for a parliamentary seat with confidence. I’ve learned much which I’m going to put into practice. With this knowledge, I feel I will be able to assist other participants in my home country. Thank you.”

Participant, Africa Liberal Network women’s training workshop

The SNP carried out an assessment visit to Georgia.
Building robust institutions

Representative, transparent and accountable institutions are essential to a healthy democracy. Respected laws, impartial judiciary and security forces are institutions that enable free and fair elections. Capable civil services implement governments’ programmes. Parliaments scrutinise and challenge, holding governments to account on behalf of the electorate.

In emerging democracies, institutions are often not robust and are incapable of underpinning democracy effectively.

Much of WFD’s work is with new or emerging democracies, so many of our projects focus on training members of institutions, or those recently elected to parliament. We support special interest groups that engage with institutions as a way to bring democratic forces closer to grassroots, and make them more representative and robust. For example:

• In Russia we are supporting regional and federal ethics commissions. These provide a forum for public monitoring and control over the administration’s actions and development plans.
• In Pakistan, we helped newly elected women MPs to develop their lobbying and advocacy skills in order to influence democratic change.
• In Bosnia, we supported a project in which non-governmental organisations gave evidence about human rights practices to parliamentary committees, influencing legislation and opening up the process of law-making to public scrutiny.
• In Burundi, we ran workshops for women MPs, enabling them to build constituencies and position themselves for forthcoming elections.

Flexing parliamentary powers, Kenya

Despite the advent of multi-party democracy in 1992, Kenyan MPs have not yet made full use of their new powers to protect human rights. Kenyan MPs are only now beginning to gain experience and awareness of the powers they have to improve people’s lives.

WFD funds the Kenya Section International Commission of Jurists (KS-ICJ) in a project that aims to develop MPs’ understanding of international human rights standards, and how they can apply them to contemporary human rights issues affecting Kenya.

With support from WFD, KS-ICJ’s efforts will strengthen the Kenyan parliament’s work in this area by developing a human rights action plan, producing quarterly human rights briefs and undertaking a regular audit of MP’s human rights activities.

Local connections

Local government is most people’s first point of contact with the authorities. When it works well, local government recognises and represents citizens’ interests and enables them to understand and participate in local decision-making, leading to a greater sense of civic responsibility.

But local government is often seen as inefficient and self-serving – even corrupt. Local politicians can seem remote, and the local government system merely a gravy train for local big men.

Sometimes, this is because local government is deprived of real clout and the ability to make a difference. Local government can suffer from poor organisation, a lack of skills and professional staff and abuses of power.

WFD recognises how important local government is in bringing politics closer to the people. Over the last year we have supported projects which aim to root local authorities more firmly in local communities. For example:

• In Bosnia, we ran cross-party training on leadership and effective governance skills for local candidates, in preparation for the October 2004 local elections.
• In Uganda, we trained women councillors in technical skills such as controlling budgets and developing policy.
• In Macedonia, we ran a seminar on conflict management and political negotiation skills for local politicians and officials.
• In Serbia, we are funding a project to engage young people in local decision-making and to improve communication and co-operation between youth and local government.

Reaching rural voters, Azerbaijan

During the 2003 elections in Azerbaijan, voters suffered from a lack of information. Many people, voting for the first time, didn’t fully understand the election process or how to participate. They didn’t have access to educational election broadcasts, and rural voters were particularly bereft of information as the election work of international organisations did not always extend to rural areas.

It was vital that during the 2004 municipal elections voters in the rural areas were brought into the process, and given a voice in decision-making in their communities.

WFD is supporting the Southern Resource Centre for Human Rights in Lenkeran in their training and public information programme to increase awareness of the elections in rural villages in southern Azerbaijan, and to encourage participation.

The project entails public seminars on the role of local politicians and of municipal government, voting rights and procedures and how to choose who to vote for. Brochures, booklets, a bulletin and a telephone hotline will continue to keep voters informed in the run-up to the elections.
Bringing everybody in

Inclusion is at the heart of the challenge of connecting people to politics. But in many democratic systems, minorities, or people from different ethnic, religious or ideological backgrounds from those in government, are excluded from political participation. Women and young people are under-represented in political parties and parliaments the world over.

WFD works with marginalised groups, empowering them to enter the decision-making process. We support a range of local non-governmental organisations which represent these groups, sometimes by funding a particular piece of work being done by a large, well-established organisation, and sometimes giving seed-funding to emerging, grassroots organisations. For example:

- In Bosnia, we supported training for women MPs and non-governmental organisation activists on the implementation of the new gender equality law. The project also helped to persuade political parties to involve women in decision-making.
- In Indonesia, we worked with villagers from impoverished areas, helping them develop plans for tackling poverty in their area.
- In Kosovo, we worked with multi-ethnic committees, bodies which bring party activists and community representatives together. The committees tackle Kosovo’s development priorities and put policy suggestions to the authorities.
- We worked with Palestinian women, encouraging their political participation from understanding their rights, to voting and standing for office.

Involving rural women, Pakistan

Marginalised groups in Pakistan are under-represented in the country’s political institutions. This is particularly true of rural communities which lack education and interaction with the outside world.

Women, in particular, are excluded. Under tribal rule, they have not been involved or encouraged to participate in decision-making at any level, and are still generally regarded as male property.

WFD funds the Tribal Women Welfare Association (TWWA) which encourages tribal women to demand their right to participate in decision-making. TWWA also aims to change the outlook of tribal men towards tribal women.

TWWA is setting up workshops for women throughout the Federally Administered Tribal Areas where they can learn about human rights and are encouraged to develop ways of participating in local decision-making.

The workshops are supported by TWWA’s magazine, New Life, which addresses issues important to women and encourages them to find ways to develop and express views on them. In a largely illiterate population, the work is supported by volunteers who help translate the magazine’s messages and encourage discussion.

As a result of the two-year project, women, often for the first time in their lives, have participated in informed debates around issues that affect them with both male and female peers.

Strengthening free media

The media is subject to censorship in many of the countries where we work. Sometimes there is direct, official censorship. Sometimes print and broadcast editors censor their own output because it is too dangerous for them to expose corruption or to criticise the authorities. As a result, coverage of the political process in many fledgling democracies is often unbalanced and partisan.

The problem is further exacerbated when journalists lack reporting skills or have little understanding of their role as watchdogs of the political process. Many are unaware of their rights and how to exercise them.

The media can play a vital role in connecting people with the political process – it provides good-quality coverage and unbiased analysis of political events. A strong, independent media can become an instrument of the electorate, rather than a tool of political elites.

Over the last year, WFD has supported projects to develop responsible and independent media. For example:

- In Iraq, we funded an independent newspaper which aims to increase the debate around political, social and cultural issues.
- In Kenya, we organised technical training for young journalists across Africa and overseas.
- In Israel, we ran training courses for journalism students encouraging them to develop balanced reporting.

The media mediates, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina have shown little interest in politics and are not turning out to vote. Many feel that politicians don’t understand or represent their interests. At the moment there are no representatives in the Bosnian and Herzegovinian parliament under the age of 34, and fewer than 3 per cent of those working in government are young people.

WFD’s project with Radio Kamelion based in Tuzla sets out to engage young voters by increasing youth representation in political parties and choosing more young candidates for political office.

In the run-up to the 2004 municipal elections, due to take place in October, Radio Kamelion is pressing the parties on their lack of engagement with young people and urging them to select more young candidates.

It brings younger politicians into radio programmes and discussions, and engages them with young voters. This, very publicly, is starting politicians and young people talking about local needs and problems, and encouraging them to find solutions together.

Radio Kamelion is also running a campaign to raise political awareness among young voters, provide information on the roles and responsibilities of elected representatives and encourage them to get involved.
Projects by country and theme*

This page shows where we worked in 2003/4 and the nature of the Foundation’s projects in each country. The implementation of the new strategy will see a greater concentration of WFD’s work in fewer countries as we commit resources to deeper programmes of political development and the achievement of defined objectives in each programme.

*Figures do not include additional project funding
Grants and expenditure, 2003/04

Expenditure by region

EU Neighbours – 11,843,182
Africa – 11,338,913
Other Regions – 281,303

Total: 23,463,498

Size of grants

EU Neighbours 13%
Africa Other Regions 29%

Total: 42%

Africa – 9,51,9,75

Other Regions – 289,303

Total: £3,084,460

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy Limited summary financial statements

Summary income & expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2004

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<th>Core funds</th>
<th>Corporate funds</th>
<th>Extra-budgetary funds</th>
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<th>Total 2003</th>
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<td>248,604</td>
<td>270,476</td>
<td>986,627</td>
<td>908,249</td>
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Summary balance sheet as at 31 March 2004

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Funds</td>
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<td>Defence</td>
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<td>21,337</td>
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<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
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<td>Core</td>
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<td>Corporate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra-budgetary funds</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>465,547</td>
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<td>Creditors amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>75,231</td>
<td>36,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net current assets</td>
<td>465,547</td>
<td>427,079</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Independent Auditors’ Report to the members of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy Limited

We have examined the financial statements on this page which have been prepared in the form and the basis set out in the summary foreword above. This report is made solely to the foundation’s governors, as a body, in accordance with section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the foundation’s governors those matters we are required to state in an auditors’ report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law we do not accept or assume responsibility for anyone other than the foundation and the foundation’s governors as a body, for our audit work, for the report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of governors and Chief Executive and auditors

The governors and the Chief Executive are responsible for preparing the summary financial statements. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statements with the full annual financial statements and Governors’ Report and its compliance with the relevant requirements of sections 235 of the Companies Act 1985, and the regulations made thereunder, and the basis set out in the summary foreword. We also read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 “The Auditors’ statements on the summary financial statement” issued by the Auditing Practices Board. We also read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Baker Tilly Chartered Accountants
2 Bramshill Street
London W1C 5BT
14 July, 2004
Patrons, governors and staff

Patrons
Rt Hon Michael Martin MP
Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Rt Hon Michael Howard QC MP
Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP
Rt Hon David Trimble MP MLA
Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Mark Durkan MLA
John Swinney MSP
Dr Ian Paisley MP MLA

Board of Governors
Mike Capes MP, Chairman
Nik Gowing, Vice-Chairman
Michael Moore MP, Vice-Chairman
Michael Trend CBE MP, Vice-Chairman
Michael Aaronson CBE
James Arbuthnot MP
Georgia Ashworth OBE
Jim Bewsher
Mary Kaldor
Elwyn Lloyd MP
Patrick Smith
Baroness D’Souza CMG
Richard Spring MP
Gisela Stuart MP

Staff
David French, Chief Executive

EU Neighbours Team
Jadranka Foster, Programme Director, EU Neighbours Team
and Deputy to Chief Executive
Carla Welch, Programme Manager, EU Neighbours Team
Alex Romanac, Programme Officer, EU Neighbours Team

Africa Team
Marina Namor, Programme Manager, Africa Team
Zaya Yeebo, Programme Manager, Africa Team
Imen Trabelsi, Programme Officer, Africa Team
Frederick Ashu, Programme Administrator, Africa Team

Finance Team
Gordon Lane, Director of Finance and Company Secretary
Brian Merritt, IT Officer and Assistant to Director of Finance
Tamara Moluch, PA to Chief Executive

Political Parties Staff
Nabila Sattar, Labour Party
Matthew Beever, Labour Party
Philippa Broom, Conservative Party
James Marnott, Conservative Party
Karla Hatrick, Liberal Democrats
Ellen Kelly, Liberal Democrats
David Thirity, Smaller Parties

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Adviser
Jon Benjamin, Head of Human Rights Policy Department

Details current at 31 July 2004

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