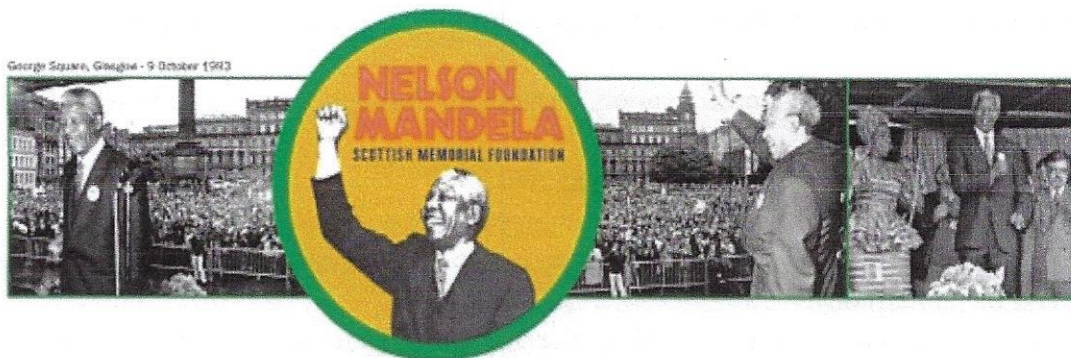




CHAIR'S REPORT to AGM

10 September 2025

Charity

The Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation was established and registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 29 December 2016. Charity Number SC047067. Principal address of the Foundation: 3 Rosevale Crescent, Hamilton, ML3 8NX.

The Board of Trustees has discussed and accepted the duties and responsibilities of trustees.

Trustees

The following are the Trustees of the Charity:

Brian Filling	Chair
*Janis Carson	Vice-chair
John Nelson	Secretary / Treasurer
**Suzanne Bonnar	
**Claire Dunphy	
**Debbie Gillespie	
David Kenvyn	
Brian Purdie	
Lorraine Purdie	
Isobel Tait	

*Jim Tait resigned as Vice-chair and retired from the Board in January 2025.

Janis Carson was elected as Vice-chair in February 2025.

**Suzanne Bonnar, Claire Dunphy and Debbie Gillespie were elected to the Board in April 2025.

Trustee recruitment and appointment is constitutionally in the hands of the Board of Trustees. No external organisation is involved in any appointments.

Governing Document and Charitable Purposes

The Foundation's governing document is its Constitution, in which its charitable purposes are stated as:

The advancement of heritage and education, particularly through increasing knowledge and understanding of:

- (1) the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela;
- (2) his role in the struggle for freedom and human rights in South Africa;
- (3) the lessons of that struggle for continued active commitment to human rights, equality and racial harmony;
- (4) the historic role of Glasgow in particular and of Scotland more generally in the world-wide campaign for his release and for human rights in South Africa.
- (5) Scotland's strong historical connection with other leading South African figures and its wider links with South Africa's history.

Constitutional amendments

A special meeting of the Members was called on 4 March 2025 to consider proposed amendments to the Foundation's Constitution, of which due notice had been given.

After discussion and consideration the following amendments were adopted unanimously:

"Clause 14. Amend maximum number of Trustees to 12.

Insert after Clause 44 new Clause 45, and renumber succeeding clauses: "The Board may decide to hold some or all meetings of any kind by video-conferencing. An individual participating in a meeting via an audio or audio-visual link will be deemed to be present in person."

Amend Clause 68 to read "The provisions of [new clause 45, old clauses 45, 47 and 48] (video-conferencing, quorum and chairperson) shall apply in relation to all meetings of the charity trustees in their capacity as members of the organisation."

Blank clause 78 was deleted. Clauses were re-numbered and all references to clause numbers made necessary by the agreed amendments.

Patrons

The Patrons of the Foundation are:

The Lord Provost of the City of Glasgow, Councillor Jacqueline McLaren.

His Excellency Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo, High Commissioner of South Africa to the UK.

Her Excellency Nomatamba Tambo, former High Commissioner of South Africa to the UK.

The living Freemen of the City of Glasgow:

Sir Billy Connolly

Sir Kenny Dalglish

Sir Alex Ferguson

Mongane Wally Serote, South African Poet Laureate

Marah Louw, South African singer and actor.

Volunteers

A number of people have worked for the Foundation in a voluntary capacity during the year including James Tait (statue), Annie Shanahan (trade union coordination and Facebook page), Kate Ramsden (website) and Kevin Buchanan (video).

In addition, several people have contributed their services pro-bono in work related to the creation of a statue of Nelson Mandela including Paul Jaffrey of the construction contractor Sir Robert McAlpine (SRM); Karen Anderson, Deirdre Nicholls, Paul Jaffrey, James Tait (Statue Evaluation Panel).

Nelson Mandela Foundation

The Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation has links with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, South Africa, and has received approval for its logo and design of its website. NMSMF has been in contact with the Nelson Mandela Foundation at various times throughout the past year.

Finance and fund-raising

A bank account is held with the Royal Bank of Scotland. Registration with HMRC is established allowing Gift Aid to be collected from donations. Donations may be made online via the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and PayPal. A deposit account was opened in May 2021 with the Nationwide Building Society and some funds were transferred into that account. A deposit account was opened with the Unity Trust Bank in April 2023 and some funds were transferred into that account.

Around £180,000 is held in the bank accounts of the Foundation.

The past year has been dominated by work in preparation for the creation of the statue of Nelson Mandela in Nelson Mandela Place.

Statue

In 2024 a design for the foundations of the statue was developed. This followed investigatory trenches which uncovered previously unmapped underground pipes and cables carrying utility services. The foundation design allowed for safe coverage of these utilities.

The Utility Service owners (multiple companies) were contacted with a proposed design for the foundations of the statue to accommodate the services. However, the responses from the utility companies indicated that their services would require to be diverted and quotes were provided for this work. The total costs of the work were estimated to be £20,000-£25,000.

The costs and the considerable time it would take for each of the services' providers to do the necessary work at different times was considered prohibitive. On the advice of services engineers as to location, the Foundation wrote to GCC's Planning department to ask if they would consider an alternative site within Nelson Mandela Place and the Chair wrote to the Leader of the Council asking her if she would assist in expediting the process. A successful meeting was held with the Planning department involving James Tait and Janis Carson and a Planning Consent amendment for the new site was submitted. Amended Planning Consent was granted on 14 November 2024.

SRM applied for a road opening permit and arranged for sub-contractors to undertake the digging of further trial trenches. These were dug in April 2025 to check for any underground impediments to the creation of the foundations for the statue. The new site proved to be largely free of constraints requiring only a minor adjustment (moving the memorial base 400mm to the west) which was acceptable to Planning under the terms of our existing Consent.

Work has been done to fulfil the Planning conditions which required to be discharged prior to commencement of works. Condition 05 regarding on-going maintenance has been successfully dealt with. The remaining condition regarding commencement of works will be discharged once a final design has been determined.

In order to commence construction, NMSMF required to appoint both a Principal Designer (to assess and confirm that all Health & Safety risks have been assessed and planned for) and a Principal Contractor (SRM). Paul Jaffrey (SRM) has approached CDM Scotland on behalf of the Foundation to undertake the Principal Designer services for the project. CDM Scotland have drafted a contract and provided a quote to undertake this role which is in the process of being accepted. Once this contract has been accepted, we will also formalise the contract with SRM as our Principal Contractor.

Prior to this the Design Brief for the sculpture had been drafted by Janis Carson and she and Brian Filling worked on the Brief over some months including meeting and seeking advice from various people in arts organisations. After a number of iterations, the Design Brief was presented to the Foundation's Board and agreed.

During this period the granite block for the statue's plinth was procured from South Africa and transported to Old Meldrum, Aberdeenshire by the company Fyfe Glenrock. Janis Carson visited the site to inspect the granite, take photographs and discuss the finishing work to be undertaken by Fyfe Glenrock.

Janis Carson visited and had several useful discussions with Powderhall Bronze Foundry. The Foundry has provided much advice including production methods and costs, and maintenance of the statue. Powderhall also nominated sculptors for the design competition.

With the new site in Nelson Mandela Place having received Planning Permission the competition for the design of the statue could be launched. Creative Scotland and other arts bodies were asked to make nominations and following the launch of the competition the Foundation received numerous Expressions of Interest.

The Design Brief was sent to 22 artists who expressed an interest and 13 submissions were received from sculptors by the deadline of 8 August 2025. Following the circulation of the Brief to sculptors, concerns had been raised about the budget being insufficient to cover the costs.

Foundry costs for casting the bronze had increased considerably from when it was first investigated. The NMSMF Board therefore agreed to increase the fee for the sculptors to £130,000 (from the £100,000 originally set) to include artist fee, research, production, realisation, insurance, documentation and VAT. The production/realisation costs include casting and finishing of the bronze and transportation. The costs of the granite plinth

including finishing have been costed separately and will be paid for by NMSMF. Shortlisted artists will receive a separate fee of £2000 each to produce maquettes/3d visualisations.

The Evaluation Panel met on 19 August 2025 and drew up a shortlist which was recommended to the Foundation's Board. The Board agreed a final shortlist of 5 sculptors on 21 August 2025.

The shortlisted sculptors and those who were unsuccessful were informed of the Board's decisions and given brief feedback. The requirements for Stage 2 Submissions have been disseminated to sculptors along with the project programme. The shortlisted sculptors have until 31 October 2025 to submit maquettes and 3d visualisations of their design for the statue.

In preparation for this, arrangements are being made for the public to be consulted on the submissions. Discussions have been held with the Lord Provost's office with the aim of securing space in the City Chambers for the public to view the maquettes in November 2025.

Following receipt of Stage 2 submissions/maquettes the Evaluation Panel will meet to be followed by a meeting of the Judging Panel which will recommend a sculptor to undertake the creation of the statue to be appointed by the Foundation's Board later in November 2025. The target date for the unveiling of the statue is 9 October 2026.

Stalls

Stalls were run by John Nelson at various events including the STUC Women's, Black workers conferences and the STUC, the Labour Party conference and a multi-racial event in Paisley.

Nelson Mandela International Day

On 18 July the annual Civic Reception for Nelson Mandela International Day event was held in the Banqueting Hall of the City Chambers. Bailie Anthony Carroll welcomed guests and referred to Glasgow's proud history with the anti-apartheid struggle and its association with Nelson Mandela.

Brian Filling, Honorary Consul for South Africa, Chair of ACTSA Scotland and Chair of the Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation (NMSMF), also welcomed guests and thanked the Lord Provost and Glasgow City Council for hosting the Civic Reception, Bailie Carroll for his welcome and the Scottish Government for their sponsorship of the event.

He went on to speak about the 70th anniversary of the South African Freedom Charter agreed on 25-26 June 1955, at the Congress of the People in Kliptown, near Johannesburg. Nelson Mandela, who was banned at that time listened to the event from the side of the crowd. The Freedom Charter served as a beacon for the following decades until the end of apartheid in 1994. It is the basis of the Constitution of the new South Africa.

The South African government passed the Land Expropriation Act to bring it into line with the new constitution. This was to allow the government to take possession of unused or underused land without compensation.

The United States attacked this as being "racially discriminatory" and invited Afrikaners to seek refugee status in the US. The same Executive Order signed by President Trump stated

that South Africa was acting against US foreign policy in alleging genocide by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza and taking it to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The ICJ found South Africa's allegation to be plausible. The Presidential Order stipulated that the US would not give any assistance or aid to South Africa because of its actions.

The full speech is available on the Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation website at <https://mandelascottishmemorial.org/celebrating-nelson-mandela-international-day-2025>

Janis Carson, NMSMF Statue project manager, outlined progress to date on the creation of the statue of Nelson Mandela. She referred to the Boards on display at the event which outlined progress and invited guests to look at the boards. The project had reached a qualitatively new stage with the launch of the design competition for the statue. There had been 22 Expressions of Interest from artists and the closing date for Stage 1 submissions was 8 August. The Display Boards showed previous works by the artists. Thereafter an Evaluation Panel comprising NMSMF officers, sculptors and professionals from the art world would draw up a shortlist. The shortlisted artists would submit maquettes by 31 October. There would then be a period of public consultation followed by a meeting of the Judging Panel who would make a recommendation to the NMSMF Board of Trustees. The selected sculptor would work on the statue with the aim of the unveiling event happening on 9 October 2026, the anniversary of the visit of Nelson Mandela to Glasgow when he was awarded the Freedoms of 9 UK cities.

Brian Filling then introduced the six-person band, the Whistlebinkies, who played a medley of tunes ending with Nkosi Sikalel' iAfrika to a standing ovation.

The Scottish Government's Directorate of External Affairs International Division sponsorship of the event covered the musicians' fees, project management, filming, and recording.

There were around 110 people in attendance. A collection of £500 was taken for the Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation.

Communications

Website

There were 60,682 individual visitors to the website between 1 Aug 2024 and 1 Aug 2025. That's up by 85.5 per cent over the previous year. The number of sessions has also increased from 38,616 to 73,748.

The largest rise in both visitors and sessions has been in the period since June of this year when developments on securing the statue have gathered momentum, with the design process underway. We have also posted around one article a month over the period since February 2025 and this has no doubt had an impact on numbers of visitors as we might expect.

Facebook

We have 824 followers on Facebook, 13 fewer than at the time of last year's report. The vast majority of our followers (78%) are in the UK. Followers based in other countries include in South Africa (6%) and Bangladesh (8%), with the remainder in India, Pakistan and the US. 56% identified as men and 44% women - the same percentages as last year. The age demographic shows that the majority of our followers are over 55 years of age.

Amongst our posts, that recording the anniversary of Nelson Mandela's visit to Glasgow on 9 October 1993, to finally receive in person the Freedom of Glasgow and of eight other councils was viewed the most - 909 times. Amongst other posts we shared were those commemorating the anniversary of the shooting by police of children in Soweto in 1976 (370 views), the 65th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre (261 views) and the 35th anniversary of Mandela's release from prison (318 views). We also noted the anniversary of the casting of the votes in South Africa's first non-racial elections, at the same time announcing the opening of our competition to create the statue of Nelson Mandela (146 views). Comments were generally positive and many of the posts were shared.

Twitter and Bluesky

The Foundation has 436 followers on X. With the change from Twitter to X the former level of analytics is no longer available.

The Foundation joined Bluesky in February 2025. There are 47 followers.

Education

The West of Scotland Development Education Centre (WoSDEC) which had previously been commissioned by the Foundation to produce the resource pack, "When Mandela danced in the Square", has done some work towards producing the educational material to accompany the public signage of the statue. In this regard audio files of children talking about Nelson Mandela and racism have been created. However, this work to develop material to be associated with the statue was paused as it was superseded by work on the statue.

Discussions with Glasgow Caledonian University Archives Centre and a freelance designer continued about the designing and hosting of the on-line educational materials to be produced by WoSDEC and the Foundation. However, as Carole McCallum, GCU's archivist, has now retired the connection with GCU will need to be re-developed. Carole was written to by the Chair and thanked for her very helpful work over the years.

Meetings

Meetings to seek advice and secure support for the Foundation have been held during the course of the year with a variety of organisations including:

South African High Commission

Lord Provost of City of Glasgow

Glasgow City Council Planning

Glasgow School of Art

Creative Scotland

ACTSA UK

STUC

Liliesleaf Trust UK: Anti-Apartheid Legacy: Centre of Memory and Learning

Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU)

West of Scotland Development Education Centre (WoSDEC)

Sir Robert McAlpine

Fyfe Glenrock

Powderhall Bronze Foundry

Policies

1 Reserves

The Trustees believe a formal policy is not appropriate at this stage. The building of a large capital sum required for the creation of the statue has hitherto been the main task.

The Board of Trustees will endeavour to exercise prudent management of the charity's cash-flow and will now need to consider the question as the creation of the statue enters the operational stage and monies will require to be spent over the 2025-2026 year.

2 Other Policies

The Foundation has developed policy statements covering the following key areas. These are kept under regular review:

- Safeguarding and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Notifiable Events.

In addition, the Board has developed and approved a GDPR Compliance Action Plan.

The Board reviewed the Risk Register at each of its meetings during 2024-2025.

Brian Filling
Chair

Approved by the Trustees on Wed. 10th September, 2025

John Nelson (Trustee and Secretary)