

Ambedkarite Buddhist Global Network UK — Platform Fact Sheet

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1. Purpose

The ABGN-UK digital platform is **charitable mission infrastructure**, wholly owned and operated by the Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is **not** a commercial software product, a Software-as-a-Service subscription, or a technology business. It is not licensed, leased or sold to any third party and generates no commercial income.

Its sole purpose is to deliver the CIO's charitable objects online — the advancement of the Buddhist religion (particularly in the Ambedkarite tradition), the advancement of education, and the promotion of equality and social inclusion — and to widen public access to those objects.

2. Charitable activities delivered through the platform

- Live meditation sessions led by trained volunteer facilitators;
- Live Buddhist teachings and Dhamma talks by visiting Bhantes and elder members;
- Community meetings, AGM, and open-to-public Sangha gatherings;
- Online public events (Buddha Purnima, Ambedkar Jayanti, Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Din);
- Structured educational courses for adults (Foundations of the Dhamma, Buddha and His Dhamma, etc.);
- Youth learning programmes (KS1, KS3, KS4 levels) for ages 5–16;
- Volunteer collaboration spaces, study circles and reading groups;
- Wellbeing and community discussion forums (moderated);
- Hybrid participation: every in-person event runs simultaneously on the platform;
- Remote engagement for members across the United Kingdom and the global Sangha.

3. Who benefits and how access barriers are removed

Barrier	How the platform removes it
Distance across UK cities	A member in Glasgow and a member in Plymouth can sit in the same meditation.
Disability & mobility limits	Captions, screen-reader compatibility, low-bandwidth audio-only mode.
Caring responsibilities	Parents, carers, and shift workers can attend without leaving the house.
Elderly participation	Large fonts, slow pacing, and a first-time-user interface.
No local Buddhist centre	Most UK cities have no Ambedkarite Buddhist centre — the platform brings one to every postcode.
Financial means	Free baseline membership; hardship waivers on every paid tier; zero cost for public events.
Working-family time	Recorded sessions (with consent) are catch-uppable any hour.

4. Estimated annual running costs

The platform is engineered for low cost, in line with the trustees' duty of charitable economy. Indicative annual running costs (subject to actual usage):

Cost item	Estimate (GBP / year)	Notes
Hosting & infrastructure	£600 – £1,200	Scales with membership; reviewed quarterly.
Domain & email	£40 – £80	ambedkaritebuddhistsociety.org and trustee mailboxes.
Video-call licensing (JaaS)	£0 – £600	Free tier covers initial scale.
Transactional email (Resend)	£0 – £120	Free tier covers initial scale.
AI Dhamma assistant credits	£100 – £300	Capped per month; budget reviewed quarterly.
Backups & monitoring	£60 – £180	Off-site encrypted backups.
TOTAL indicative	£800 – £2,480	Funded from voluntary donations & membership.

No trustee, member or volunteer receives any payment for time spent operating, maintaining or developing the platform. Members may opt to contribute towards running costs via voluntary donations or optional supporter membership tiers.

5. Safeguarding controls on the platform

- All meeting rooms require either an ABGN-UK login or a private invite code shared by the host. No room is publicly indexed.
- Meeting hosts are designated and are the only participants with moderation controls (mute, remove, end).
- Children under 16 may attend ABGN-UK online events only when accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Community discussion forums are moderated. Posts in breach of policy are removed; persistent breach results in suspension.
- Direct messaging between adult volunteers and minors is not permitted on the platform.
- Youth-cohort sessions are run with a trained moderator present at all times and are logged (not broadcast).
- All safeguarding concerns route to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Cyber-security: industry-standard auth, encrypted storage, password rotation, off-site backups.
- Documented platform-outage fallback to in-person and audio-only modes.

6. Governance & ownership

The platform is wholly owned by the CIO. It is operated by volunteer trustees and members of the CIO. Operational decisions (uptime, moderation, content) are delegated by the trustees to the Platform Operations volunteer team and reported to the trustee board at every trustee meeting. Strategic decisions (cost ceilings, third-party integrations, terms of use) are reserved to the trustee board.

On dissolution of the CIO, the platform and any associated assets transfer with the other net assets of the CIO under the dissolution clause of the constitution (clause 17) to one or more other charities with similar objects.

This Fact Sheet is reviewed annually by the trustee board, or sooner if material changes are made to the platform's activities, costs or safeguarding controls.