

**INDEX ON CENSORSHIP  
ANNUAL REPORT 2018**



# ABOUT INDEX ON CENSORSHIP

Index on Censorship is a non-profit organisation that campaigns for and defends freedom of expression worldwide. We believe that everyone should be free to express themselves without fear of harm or persecution – no matter what their views.

Our aim is to raise awareness about threats to free expression and the value of free speech as the first step to tackling censorship. To do this, we publish work by censored writers and artists, promote debate, and monitor threats to free speech.

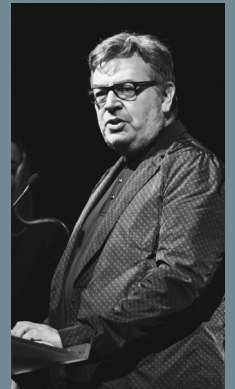


**“No matter how dark is the moment, love and hope are always possible.”**

Ahmad Abdallah, co-founder, Egyptian Commission  
for Rights and Freedoms, Index on Censorship Freedom of Expression  
Award Campaigning Fellows 2018

## OUTGOING CHAIR'S STATEMENT

It is five years since I took the helm of Index on Censorship. In that time, I have seen threats, old and new, surface to challenge free speech. From the killings at French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo – which caused such shockwaves across the world that, in the months afterwards, many of us who spoke publicly at events on the issue did so with armed security – to the verbal attacks on the press from Donald Trump and the arrests of hundreds of journalists in Turkey, to the detention of cartoonists in Equatorial Guinea and the jailing of human rights defenders in Bahrain. It has been a period that has proved time and again why we need to continue to defend a right that so often many of us take for granted.

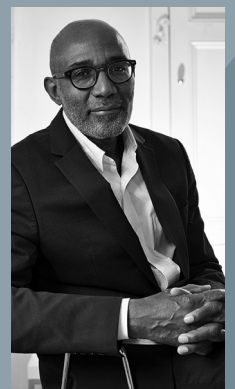


I am proud of all that Index has achieved in the last five years. We have transformed our annual Freedom of Expression Awards into a year-long fellowship programme to provide lasting support to the individuals and groups we honour each year. We have introduced new flagship projects, including training for UK arts organisations on the law and free speech, as well as a platform to monitor media freedom in Europe. And we have campaigned successfully on behalf of individuals detained and harassed by authorities for their work. Here in the UK, we have continued to be one of the leading voices in defence of press freedom and free expression.

***David Aaronovitch***

## INCOMING CHAIR'S STATEMENT

At a time when the world is beset by conflict, and in many cases repression, the case for diversity of voices globally could not be plainer. Index is the premier organisation backing the voices standing up for free expression, and I feel privileged to be taking on this role and to support the work of Index's outstanding team.



With more than four decades of experience, Index knows both the challenges presented by traditional methods of censorship – the old authoritarian foes – but is also highly attuned to threats from new sources. The advent of new technologies has made it more possible for voices to be heard; but both governments and non-state actors have redoubled their efforts to silence their opponents. Index will redouble its own efforts by adding a focus on digital censorship to its current work programme in the coming year.

We will also be expanding our work to the United States with a new project aimed at introducing university students to issues of international censorship and developing a wider range of spokespeople on freedom of expression.

***Trevor Phillips***

# OUR AIMS

## Inform

### Index raises public awareness of censorship

Index seeks to broaden and deepen public understanding of global threats to freedom of expression as the first step to addressing those threats. We raise awareness through an award-winning quarterly magazine, via our website and social media platforms, through monitoring and reporting freedom of expression violations, training and education, and by providing expert comments and analyses to media, academic and research organisations.

## Support

### Index supports censored writers and artists

Index supports those facing censorship and threats to free expression. This includes writers, artists, scholars and freedom of expression campaigners, as well as anyone else in the creative arts, or active in research or teaching, who is denied the right of free expression. We achieve this through the publication and promotion of original written material in our magazine and online and through our annual Freedom of Expression Awards Fellowship.

## Influence

### Index campaigns for change

Index uses the expertise and information gathered in its magazine, its online reporting, and through specific projects to campaign for change on freedom of expression issues. We achieve this through media campaigns, by lobbying governments and authorities on specific issues, or through legal challenges. We work with other organisations to strengthen the power of our advocacy by sharing resources and information.

## Debate

### Index creates and encourages debate

Open debate is a central tenet of free expression. Index actively promotes discussion about the limits and concerns surrounding free expression. In 2017/18, we participated in more than 70 events, which covered a wide range of topics from book censorship to media freedom worldwide. We took part in literary festivals and music festivals, and spoke at theatres, universities and even underground bunkers.

# OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2017-18



On 2 Nov 2017, Index joined a vigil for murdered Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.  
*Credit: Cat Lucas / English Pen*



The Trump Baby blimp rises over London's Parliament Square.  
*Credit: Michael Reeve / Flickr*

Media freedom came into focus during the year, with the killing of investigative reporter Daphne Caruana Galizia in Malta in October and journalist Jan Kuciak in Slovakia in February. The trials of arrested journalists began in Turkey, and US President Donald Trump came under renewed focus for his persistent criticism of the press.

Index has continued to support calls for swift justice in the case of Daphne Caruana Galizia and is supporting European efforts to end the practice of vexatious lawsuits aimed at silencing journalists. We are working with Jan Kuciak's colleagues to ensure an effective investigation into his murder. Our Turkey Uncensored project has published more than 91 interviews online with journalists and others affected by the clampdown on freedom of expression in Turkey. In January, Index took part in an unprecedented press freedom mission to the United States, meeting journalists and lawmakers to assess the situation.

In the UK, Index has actively campaigned against attempts to reintroduce section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act, which would have penalised publishers who refuse to sign up to a state-approved regulator. We also continue to lobby changes to the Counter Terrorism and Border Security Bill, which could hamper investigative journalism and academic research.

**“An archive of past battles won, and a beacon of present and future struggles. Its unique brand of practical, practising advocacy is as necessary as ever.”**

Times Literary Supplement on  
Index on Censorship magazine

# ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

## INFORM

### Magazine

Index on Censorship magazine won an APEX award for publication excellence for its winter 2017 issue “What price protest? How the right to assembly is under threat.” This is the second year Index on Censorship has won an APEX award. This year, there were over 1,400 entries, with competition described by APEX as “exceptionally intense.”

Editor Rachael Jolley was shortlisted for the second year for Editor of the Year in the Special Interest category of the British Society of Magazine Editors’ Awards (winner: 2016). The magazine has featured in – among others – the Buenos Aires Times, Irish Times, New Statesman, Prospect magazine, LA Review of Books and Mic, as well as on broadcasts such as Monocle radio and the BBC, festivals including Essex Book Festival, the Hay Festival and Perugia International Journalism Festival. The magazine team now hosts a quarterly live radio show on Resonance Radio.

The magazine is available in more than 9,000 universities worldwide (making it available for free to thousands of students and academics on each site.) More than 2,000 hard copies of the magazine were distributed for free at events globally during the year. It is also on sale in bookshops and on Amazon.

### Overview of recent editions

#### Free to air (Autumn 2017)

We examined the enduring power of radio and how it contributed to freedoms throughout the world. National celebrities Wana Udobang and Xinran discussed their experiences as radio hosts in Nigeria and China respectively. We interviewed radio journalists in Somalia who risked their lives to report independently. We published new translations of the Indonesian poet Wiji Thukul’s poems, 20 years since he disappeared.



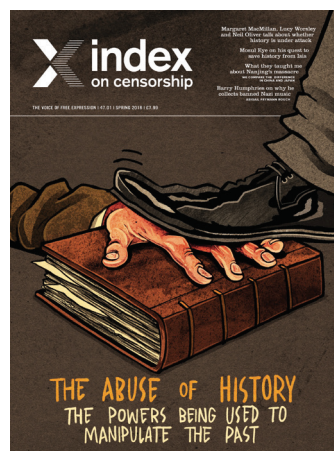
#### What price protest? (Winter 2017)

Fifty years on from 1968 – the year the world took to the streets – we asked whether our rights to protest are endangered. Author and journalist Robert McCrum revisited Prague to ask if the Prague Spring was still remembered, while activist Anuradha Roy wrote about why Indian women were taking to the streets. Our Culture section was devoted to a new short story written for us by award-winning author Ariel Dorfman.



## The abuse of history (Spring 2018)

We explored how governments and other groups were abusing power to manipulate history. Historian Lucy Worsley considered Britain's Tudor Court, while bestselling Palestinian author Abbad Yahya talked to Index about threats against his life. We met the duo behind a museum in Cuba, seeking to re-address the country's dissident past. We also published an exclusive short story by award-winning author Christie Watson.



## Trouble in paradise (Summer 2018)

Top Maltese editor Caroline Muscat took us to Malta, the Mediterranean destination where leading journalist, Daphne Caruana Galizia, was brutally murdered 100 metres from her home in 2017. Philippines news outlet Rappler explained why they won't be silenced, and we interviewed bestselling authors Ian Rankin and Victoria Hislop.



## Tim Hetherington Fellowship

The Tim Hetherington Fellowship is a year-long paid role with the editorial team at Index on Censorship, run in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) and the Tim Hetherington Trust.

Awarded each year to a current student or recent graduate of LJMU, the Fellowship – named after photojournalist, filmmaker and artist Tim Hetherington – offers hands-on journalism experience to those who previously had little first-hand media experience. Fellows report on national and international free expression issues in Index's award-winning quarterly magazine and on our website. They also work closely with creative writers, artists and authors who have faced censorship.

**“You couldn’t really ask for a better introduction [to media], because you’ve got so much experience there ...Being such a small team you have a lot of input, and your presence and your input are really valued.**

Kieran Etoria-King (pictured right),  
2017 Tim Hetherington Fellow



# ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

## Online

Our website and social media accounts provide us with a vital platform to showcase our advocacy, magazine and events work. They are also a means for us to report on and analyse topical freedom of expression threats and issues as they arise. Average monthly pageviews for the 12 months leading up to 31 July were 93,514 compared to 56,977 in the same period a year before.

Our Facebook page has 11,000 likes while our main Twitter account has 64,000 followers. In 2018/19, we will place an additional focus on boosting our social media reach through the use of videos and images. We have also launched a quarterly magazine podcast on Soundcloud and an Instagram account.

Index aims to be an important resource for those seeking information about censorship and, in particular, for practical, real-life examples of those tackling it. During the period, Index launched three projects aimed at doing just that: Journalists' Toolbox, Project Exile and Turkey Uncensored.

### Journalists' Toolbox

The Journalists' Toolbox section brings together a collection of articles from Index's correspondents. The Journalists' Toolbox aims to share experience and knowledge between journalists and other writers around the world to help them tackle similar problems. Articles are published in three languages, Russian, Spanish and Arabic, and are researched and written by experienced and, in some cases, award-winning reporters who have reputations for excellence.

**X index**  
on censorship  
**JOURNALISTS'**  
**TOOLBOX**



**“When the attacks on journalism are on this scale, fear becomes a luxury”**

**Canan Coşkun**

## Project Exile

Index on Censorship has partnered with the University of Missouri's Global Journalist news website and radio show to tell the stories of journalists who have been forced into exile for their reporting. Since January 2018, we have published 14 stories of journalists who are subject to campaigns of harassment and intimidation over their work in countries such as Azerbaijan and Zimbabwe.



## Turkey Uncensored

Turkey Uncensored is an online project that publishes articles from censored Turkish writers, artists and translators, with a particular focus on stories that are seldomly covered elsewhere, such as the plight of Kurdish reporters.

Turkey Uncensored is our response to the unparalleled level of attacks on media freedom in the country in which hundreds of journalists have been detained, arrested and jailed, media outlets closed and thousands of journalists and academics expelled from their positions.



**“Opposition was silenced and intimidated, and there was no free press or free speech”**

# SUPPORT

## Freedom of Expression Awards Fellowship

Index supports individuals and groups facing censorship through its Freedom of Expression Awards Fellowship. Launched in 2015, the fellowship offers 12 months of capacity building, coaching and strategic support. This includes everything from help with digital security to business planning and skills training. Through the fellowships, Index aims to maximise the impact and sustainability of those tackling censorship worldwide.

Awards are offered in four categories: arts, campaigning, digital activism and journalism. Anyone who has had a demonstrable impact in tackling censorship is eligible, and preference is given to those who have not received significant support or recognition elsewhere. This year, the winners were honoured at a gala celebration in the May Fair Hotel, London.

More than 200 Index friends and supporters attended the event, which was hosted by stand-up poet Kate Fox, with music from The Turbans.

**“It was superbly put together combining entertainment and deeply serious and powerful content.”**

Jonathan Dimbleby, broadcaster

The 2018 fellows are:

### **Arts** | The Museum of Dissidence

A public art project and website celebrating dissent in Cuba, whose organisers have faced repeated arrests over their work. Set up by artist Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara and curator Yanelys Nuñez Leyva, the museum aims to reclaim the word “dissident” and give it a positive meaning. The museum organises radical public art projects and installations, which are concentrated in the poorer districts of Havana.

**“This award for us means a lot but it also means a lot to all the artists who have preceded us and who are the reason why we have been able to work with a little bit more freedom and a little less fear.”**

Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara

### **Campaigning** | Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms

One of the few human rights organisations still operating in a country that has waged an orchestrated campaign against independent civil society groups, ECRF documents cases of enforced disappearance and provides legal support to those affected. Their work has seen them subject to state harassment, their headquarters raided and staff members arrested.

**“Love and hope are our sole weapons against our greatest enemy fear. Together we will conquer it, and it is not an anticipation, it is a promise.”**

Ahmad Abdallah, ECRF



**The 2018 fellows:** 1 Museum of Dissidence; 2 Wendy Funes; 3 Ahmad Abdallah of Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms; 4 Guy Muyembe of Habari RDC

## Digital Activism | Habari RDC

Habari RDC is a collective of more than 100 young Congolese bloggers and web activists who use social media to give voice to the opinions of young people from all over the Democratic Republic of Congo. Their site posts stories and cartoons about politics, but also covers football, the arts and topics such as domestic violence, child exploitation and sexual harassment at work.

**“I consider this honour more a recognition than a reward. In my opinion, all the Congolese bloggers are invited on this day to redouble their efforts to make freedom of expression on the internet triumph.”**

Guy Muyembe, Habari RDC

## Journalism | Wendy Funes

Wendy Funes is an investigative journalist from Honduras who regularly risks her life to report what is happening in her country, which is an extremely harsh environment for reporters. Funes meets these challenges with creativity and determination. For one article, she had her own death certificate issued to highlight corruption in the country. Funes also writes about violence against women, a huge problem in Honduras, where one woman is killed every 16 hours.

**“...there is always someone willing to extend their hand and say “Come on, it’s worth resisting, it’s worth dreaming and fighting to transform all of this pain into a reward.” A reward which gives me hope.”**

Wendy Funes

## How the fellowships work: Maldives Independent

Index awarded the 2017 Freedom of Expression Awards Fellowship in Journalism



to the Maldives Independent, an English-speaking news website. During the year of their fellowship, Index arranged security training for staff, provided a journalism course led by Index editors, and supported management with business planning and advice.

supported management with business planning and advice.

**“This award feels like a lifeline. Most of our challenges remain the same, but this recognition and the fellowship has renewed and strengthened our resolve to continue reporting, especially on the bleakest of days. Most importantly, we no longer feel so alone.”**

Zaheena Rasheed, former editor  
Maldives Independent,  
2017 Journalism Fellow

# INFLUENCE

Index on Censorship is one of the world's leading experts on the principles of freedom of expression. Our advocacy work has three main areas of focus: campaigning on behalf of individuals facing censorship; campaigning and engaging in legal challenges to ensure laws protect the highest internationally agreed standards of freedom of expression; and educating sector leaders on their rights and best practices to protect freedom of speech.

## Campaigning: individuals

In 2018, Index campaigned on behalf of a number of individuals facing censorship. This included collaborations with groups such as Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy on the case of Nabeel Rajab; with EG Justice on the case of cartoonist Ramon Esono Ebale; and with Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms and Doughty Street Chambers on behalf of Amal Fathy in Egypt. In addition, Index regularly speaks in support of individuals persecuted and prosecuted for exercising their freedom of speech.



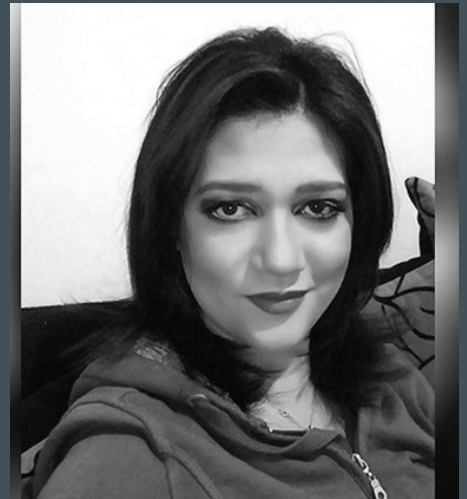
### Nabeel Rajab

In May, Bahrain's High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld a five-year conviction for human rights activist and Index on Censorship Freedom of Expression Award winner Nabeel Rajab for tweets that condemned Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen and the use of torture in Bahrain's Jau Prison. Index on Censorship has repeatedly raised the case with UK and EU authorities. In September 2017, Index took part in a protest outside the Bahraini embassy calling for his release. In August 2018, the appeal for his release was refused.



### Ramon Esono Ebale

Equatorial Guinean artist Ramón Esono Ebalé, a prominent cartoonist often critical of the government, was arrested on 16 September 2017 and charged almost three months later with counterfeiting around US\$1,800 worth of the local currency. The case was dismissed in February but Ebalé was only able to leave the country in May. Throughout this ordeal, dozens of lawyers, cartoonists' rights and human rights organisations, including Index, worked to publicise the case internationally, including with the United Nations and global policymakers.



### Amal Fathy

Amal Fathy was arrested in Egypt in May after posting a video criticising sexual harassment in Egypt – of which she herself was a victim – to social media. Ms Fathy, wife of ECRF co-founder Mohamed Lotfy, one of this year's Freedom of Expression Award fellows, was charged with terrorism offences and remains detained. Doughty Street Chambers, together with Index on Censorship and ECRF, submitted a complaint to the United Nations criticising her arbitrary detention.

# INFLUENCE

## Mapping Media Freedom

Mapping Media Freedom monitors threats to media freedom in the European Union – and neighbouring and candidate countries – to help build an accurate picture of the state of media freedom in the region. Correspondents covering 43 countries file reports on violations that include everything from legislative changes to online harassment. The information is searchable by country and type of incident and is intended to provide policymakers and others with detailed information about trends.

So far in 2018, 597 reports have been submitted to the map, including threats of rape directed at female journalists in countries such as the Netherlands and Sweden, harassment of reporters at protests in countries including France and Spain, and attacks on journalists reporting on corruption.

The project has helped identify trends such as the growing attacks on journalists investigating corruption and the increasing use of anti-terror legislations to target the media. Incidents reported to the map are also escalated to bodies such as the Council of Europe. During the first half of 2018, Index either submitted or co-sponsored submission of 30 cases to the council's Platform for the Safety of Journalists. Index has also joined other organisations to call on the parliamentary assembly of the council to appoint a rapporteur on political prisoners in Azerbaijan, who include investigative journalist Afgan Mukhtarli. We welcomed the decision to appoint one in July this year.

In March, Scottish MP Andy Wightman lodged a motion in the Scottish Parliament following Index on Censorship's annual Mapping Media Freedom report, crediting its authors for "their continued endeavours to defend media freedom and protect journalists". Wightman's motion, which received cross party support, noted "the day-to-day challenges facing journalists who are seeking to hold power to account" and criticised the "deliberate silencing of people and organisations by economic, political or criminal interests" through civil litigation and other legal measures.



**Six** journalists were killed as a result of their reporting



**175** verified incidents of assault and injury



**216** journalists arrested or detained



**192** cases of criminal charges or civil litigation

# INFLUENCE

## Campaigning: changes to the law

Index recognises that changes to laws relating to freedom of expression and privacy in Europe and the United States are often replicated swiftly elsewhere. We have therefore made it a priority to focus on ensuring legislation in these jurisdictions meets the highest standards. We are extremely grateful to support from Doughty Street Chambers, who have helped us make a number of submissions to UK parliamentary consultations, as well as legal interventions, on freedom of expression issues.

## Media

In 2017 and 2018, we actively opposed the introduction of section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act, which would have meant that small publishers who refused to sign up to a state-approved regulator could face crippling court costs in any dispute, whether they won or lost a case. The section would have threatened investigative journalists who publish important public interest stories, as well as those who challenge the powerful or the wealthy.

The government announced in March that it would not implement section 40. An attempt to reintroduce section 40 “by the back door” via data privacy laws was also defeated.

Index has also played an active role in challenging the UK government’s Counter Terror and Border Security Bill, which includes a number of measures that threaten freedom of expression. Our submission to the bill committee considering the proposed law was cited in evidence by a number of experts in the Houses of Parliament, including Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Max Hill QC and Gavin Newlands MP.

## US Press Freedom

Index was one of six international organisations that took part in an unprecedented press freedom mission to the United States in January 2018, meeting journalists and lawmakers to assess the state of the US media. The mission’s report, published on World Press Freedom Day in May

showed that President’s Trump’s attacks on the media were exacerbating an already hostile environment for journalists in the US.

Our mission found other major threats to media freedom in the US, including the poor policing of journalists at protests, an increase in border stops and searches, and a slow and unresponsive freedom of information system.

Index continues to monitor threats to the US media through its partnership on the US Press Freedom Tracker, a project led by the Freedom of the Press Foundation and the Committee to Protect Journalists. The project documents incidents such as equipment seizures and physical attacks on journalists.

## Digital

Internationally, Index sits on the board of the Global Network Initiative – an alliance of non-profit organisations, internet and telecommunications companies and academics – to develop best practices on ensuring freedom of expression online. In the UK, we are working with a number of organisations including Article 19, Big Brother Watch, Liberty, and ORG to ensure government upholds freedom of expression and privacy rights in any new legislation relating to online content.

## Academic

Over the course of the year, Index has been researching the legal framework governing freedom of expression on UK campuses to develop guidelines and advice to support university authorities and students on free speech issues on campus. The report will be published in the autumn and we are grateful to Clifford Chance for their support on this work.

Index has also contributed a chapter on academic freedom on UK campuses to Project Censored, an annual book on censorship issues, and, as part of our Turkey Uncensored project, published several interviews with Turkish academics.

# INFLUENCE

## Education and training

Index receives frequent requests for advice on freedom of expression issues, both from individuals and organisations. We have spoken at schools, universities and sector groups. This year, Index has partnered with a number of organisations - we worked with Shakespeare's Globe on their Shakespeare & Censorship season, the V&A on an exhibition marking 50 years since the Theatres Act, and JW3 on their Uncensored season. Index staff have spoken at a mosque, to a youth group at the English National Opera, and to Commonwealth youth leaders.



Index's editor Rachael Jolley at International Journalism Festival – Perugia, Italy | 3-7 April 2019  
Credit: Chiara Di Loreto



English National Opera youth camp  
Credit: Sarah Ainslie



## Arts workshops

As part of our commitment to supporting arts organisations to put out the widest possible range of creative work, Index on Censorship – in conjunction with What Next? and Cause4 – is running a series of workshops intended to support senior managers and boards in navigating the risks involved in producing controversial work.

Our workshops “Risks, Rights and Reputations” provide practical advice on best practices in handling difficult themes and sensitive stories. The workshops were built on the five guidance booklets we produced in 2015 on Art and the Law.

These workshops, hosted at venues such as Home Manchester, the Young Vic, and Southbank Centre, are funded thanks to a discretionary grant from Arts Council England.

**“In recent years there have been an increasing number of high-profile cases raising ethical and censorship issues around plays, exhibitions and other artworks. Censorship – and self-censorship – can stand in the way of great art. This programme is an important step in ensuring that our sector can continue to create vital, challenging, and risk-taking work.”**

Sir Nick Serota – Chair of Arts Council England

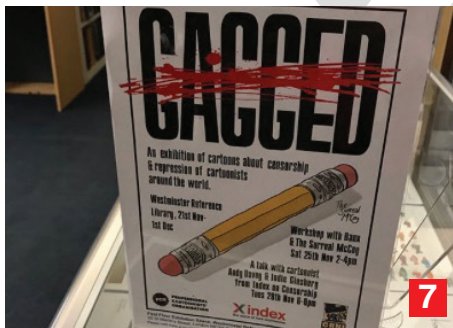
# DEBATE

Index has made it one of our primary goals to reach new audiences. We rarely sit still. In 2017/18, Index staff took part in more than 50 public events, including book launches, panel discussions, and performances of banned plays. We spoke at Perugia International Journalism Festival, the inaugural Byline Festival of independent journalism, at Wilderness Festival, Hay Festival, and Essex Book Festival – where discussions took place in an underground bunker – and the Battle of Ideas Festival. Staff chaired and gave talks in Brisbane, Limerick, Kiev, and Vienna, to name a few. In the process, we have reached more than 4,000 people.

In addition to public events, Index is actively engaged in outreach through the media. We are regularly quoted by outlets such as the BBC, Guardian, Times, and Telegraph on freedom of expression issues.

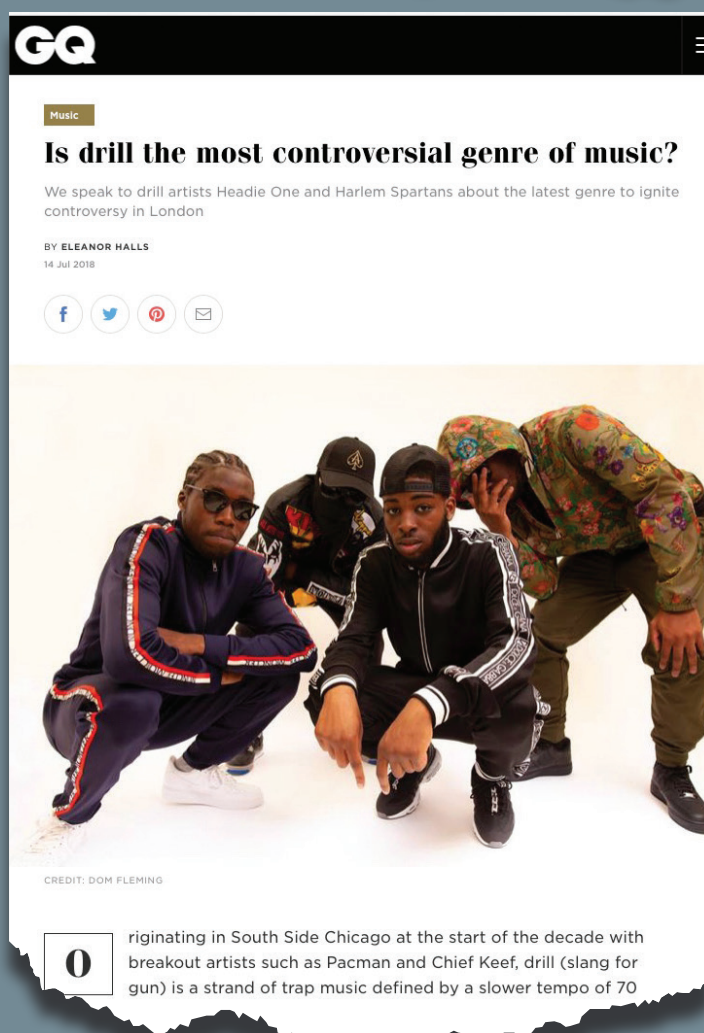
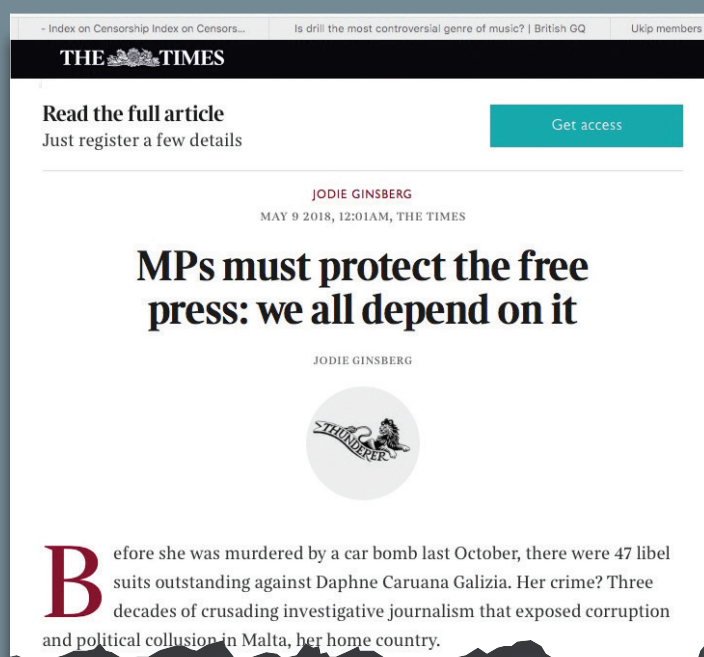


# DEBATE



**Events:** 1 Index photobooth at Afropunk Festival, London, 2017 2 Comedian Al Murray closes Stand up for Satire benefit gig, London, 2017 (Photo: Elina Kansikas) 3 Magazine launch for autumn 2017 edition 'Free to Air' 4 Magazine launch for summer 2018 edition 'Trouble in Paradise' (Photo: Rosie Gilbey) 5 Panellists at 'Expression Uncensored' Pride week event in association with Sonos (Photo: Rosie Gilbey) 6 Index photobooth at Afropunk Festival, London, 2017 7 'Gagged' exhibition in support of censored cartoonists, London, 2017 8 Comedian Tim Key at Stand up for Satire (Photo: Elina Kansikas) 9 Stand up for Satire, London, 2017 (Photo: Elina Kansikas)

# INDEX IN THE MEDIA



# PLANS FOR 2018/19 AND BEYOND: A NOTE FROM THE CEO

I am pleased, with this year's annual report, to announce the establishment of Friends of Index – a US-based non-profit whose goal is to raise funds to support Index's work in the United States and internationally.



Over the course of the coming year, we will launch two projects. The first project is aimed at introducing US university students to issues of international censorship. The other project – Free Speech is For Me! – is aimed at developing a wider range of spokespeople on freedom of expression in the United Kingdom and United States.

We will also place greater focus on addressing threats to free speech online from governments, as well as on launching Banned Books Week UK: a nationwide, week-long initiative encouraging schools, libraries and bookshops to celebrate literature and authors subject to bans, censorship or silencing.

This is in addition to the work already outlined in the rest of the report, which is no small achievement for a staff of just 12 people. As we head into our 47th year, we look forward to working with partners, old and new, to bring debates on free speech to an even wider audience.

## FUNDRAISING

Index on Censorship receives funding from a variety of sources. Our independence is of central importance to us and is ensured by an independent board of trustees. Funders do not – and are not able to – set the policies of the organisation or of the projects they fund, nor may they have input into, or preferential access, to any research, editorial output or policy development. Funders may not request or require board representation as a condition of their grants.

We are grateful to the support during the past year of Arts Council England, Michael Bishop Foundation, British Council, Clifford Chance, CNN, John S Cohen Foundation, Democracy Now, Doughty Street Chambers, Edwardian Hotels, Facebook, the European Commission, Fritt Ord, Google, The Guardian, Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, Charles Koch Institute, Liverpool John Moores University, David McCune, National Endowment for Democracy, Noel Coward Foundation, OSF, Joey Parnes Productions, the Elaine and David Potter Foundation, Private Internet Access, Psiphon, Sage Publications, Sonos, Twitter, UNESCO, VICE News, Vodafone and many small donations.

# GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The financial year 2017-18 represented a strong fundraising performance as we widened our funding base and increased total income from £898,000 in 2016-17 to £1.072 million in 2017-18. This includes £54,000 of donations in kind. Donations and core grants were down slightly, from £615,000 to £590,000. Of this, donations totalled £127,000, including a donation of over £11,000 from a Broadway performance of “1984” donated by the Joey Parnes Production Company. Our website redesign should make the donation process easier and more user-friendly. Core grants remained at a similar level to the previous year, while grants for charitable activities were considerably up from £93,000 to £256,000, reflecting a significant income increase on our charitable outputs within the year.

The David & Elaine Potter Foundation and Fritt Ord renewed their core funding, while we were also successful in securing new grants from the Michael Bishop Foundation and The Open Society Foundation. We continued to receive corporate funding from Facebook, Google and Twitter, while the National Endowment for Democracy, European Commission, and UNESO also renewed funding.

We have continued our relationship with Liverpool John Moores University, which co-fund a graduate fellowship at Index. From this year, it became a full year’s placement and was renamed the Tim Hetherington prize. We also have a donation from Wellesley College to help fund a summer intern program here at Index for three of their current students.

In addition to our National Portfolio funding from Arts Council England, we were awarded a special two-year grant to support our Arts and Censorship work.

The Freedom of Expression Awards Fellowship and awards were supported by Sage Publications, Doughty Street Chambers, and Vodafone, as well as by new sponsors such as Private Internet Access and sponsors in kind including Psiphon, Vice News, Edwardian Hotels, CNN and Cambridge Audio.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

The trustees report that the group posted a consolidated surplus of £17,989, but with expenditure of restricted funds carried forward from 2016-17, unrestricted funds actually grew from £63,139 to £100,899. The level of restricted funds is £2,850. Writers and Scholars Educational Trust had a surplus of unrestricted funds of £16,327 during year, which together with the restricted funds brought forward being spent, means that its reserves are at £72,948. Writers and Scholars International Limited made a profit of £1,662 taking its reserves up to £27,951. The current level of consolidated unrestricted reserves at £100,899 is just under two months' worth of the target set by the trustees for three months' operating costs. The trustees are seeking to achieve the reserves target by the end of the next financial year.

Consolidated group income was £1.072 million, up on 2016-17 by £173,534, mainly due to a significant increase in grants for charitable activities. Writers and Scholars International Ltd had a drop of £34,000 in its level of grants, but its expenditure was lower than that of the previous year by £65,000.

Consolidated total resources expended were £1.054 million compared with £854,359 the previous year. This reflects the increased expenditure on projects, particularly through the Mapping Media Freedom project. Direct costs were up from £506,466 in 2016-17, to £671,893 this year. Project costs rose from £225,500 to £378,416, largely due to Index's serving as a fiscal sponsor to one of our former fellowship winners, passing on 93% of the £150,000 grant to the recipient. Fundraising costs for donations remained at a similar level to that of last year at £95,357. The direct costs of fundraising activities rose from £47,173 to £82,860, mainly due to the fellowship 2017-18 as we continue to grow the programme. Overall support staff costs increased from £213,940 to £256,337 as the permanent staff number was increased by one. Governance costs showed a slight decrease of £1,243, while the cost of running an office dropped by £10,000 to £32,600.

# STATUS

The Writers and Scholars Educational Trust is a registered charity, number 325003, constituted by the Trust Deed dated 25th March 1971.

## TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

David Aaronovitch (Chair)

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Turi Munthe

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Elaine Potter

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Rachael Jolley – Magazine Editor, Deputy Chief Executive

David Sewell – Finance Director

Sean Gallagher – Head of Content

Joy Hyvarinen – Head of Advocacy

Julia Farrington – Arts Associate

Helen Galliano – Head of Strategic Events and Partnerships

Rosie Gilbey – Office Administrator

Perla Hinojosa – Fellowships and Advocacy Officer

Paula Kennedy – Assistant Editor, Mapping Media Freedom

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