

Xindex

the voice of free expression



Annual Report 2019

"Index is an indisputable part of all the struggles of their fellows."

Museum of Dissidence, Freedom of Expression Awards Arts Fellows 2018

About Index On Censorship

Index on Censorship is a non-profit organisation that campaigns for and defends freedom of expression worldwide. We believe 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 the value of free speech and threats to free expression as the first step to tackling censorship. To do this, we publish work by censored writers and artists, promote debate, and provide information and expertise on free speech issues.

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CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Most charitable organisations within hailing distance of their fiftieth birthdays would be looking forward to their celebration, if only because they have survived. At Index we approach our half century, due in 2022, in good health, but with mixed feelings. It is a tribute to our supporters, funders and our professionals that we still exist and thrive, half a century on from our launch in defence of men and women whose voices were being stilled behind the Iron Curtain and beyond.

But it is, in some ways, dispiriting that in an era where democracy has, it is said, spread across the globe, our magazine team still encounters more examples than it can report of the suppression of writers, journalists, artists and those who support them, such as lawyers and political activists. What is perhaps most alarming is that while many of the issues that Index monitors, confronts and campaigns on reflect the rise and entrenchment of authoritarian regimes, increasingly our concerns stem from repression in domains that should be entirely open to diversity of thought and expression, such as university campuses and the internet.

At a time when societies appear to be deeply divided, attempts to impose conformity come from all parts of the political spectrum. The role of Index as an honest, consistent champion of the right to speak as we find could not be more important. The practical challenges facing government, legislators, media and creative businesses increasingly require the depth of knowledge and experience stored in our small professional team. The three years running up to our half century will be some of the most demanding of our history.

As trustees, we know that we will increasingly need to seek wider support, financially and otherwise from those who value the fundamental human right to speak and to think freely. I have no doubt that those who've stood by us for two generations will be there; through, for example, our new membership scheme, our Chairman's Circle initiative, and our new US-based arm, we will widen that circle. The cause of freedom of expression has never ceased to be relevant; but rarely has it been tougher to defend.

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, training and education, and by providing expert comment and analysis.

Support

Index supports censored writers and artists

Index supports all those facing censorship and threats to free expression. This includes writers, artists, scholars, activists and anyone 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, through legal support, and through our Freedom of Expression Awards Fellowship.

Influence

Index campaigns for change

Index uses expertise and information gathered in its magazine, its online reporting, and through specific projects to call 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.

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 speech. In 2018/19, we participated in more than 70 events covering everything from online censorship to media freedom. We took part in literary and music festivals, and spoke in universities, art galleries and newsrooms worldwide.

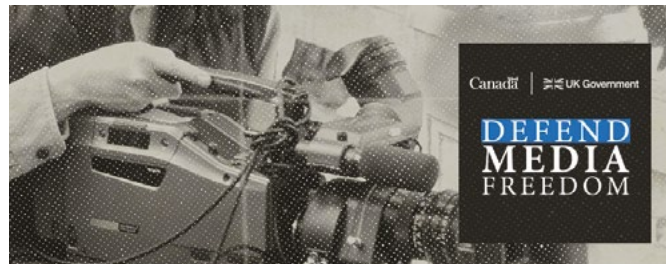
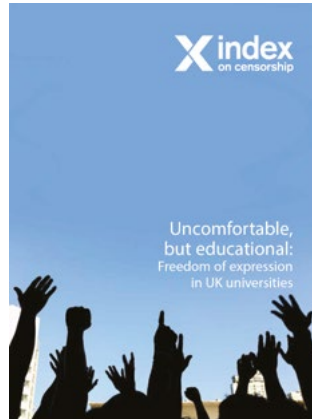
Overview of the year 2018-19

This year, Index strengthened its work providing practical support and guidance to those facing censorship. We produced **a report and guide on free speech in UK universities**, launched a major new advisory service for arts organisations and provided personalised support to individuals facing censorship via our **Freedom of Expression Awards Fellowship**.

We completed our **four-year monitoring project recording threats to media freedom** in Europe and are pleased that – having incubated this ground-breaking initiative – it will now be taken on by the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom in Leipzig. Media freedom remains central to our work and we played an integral role in the first ever Defend Media Freedom conference – a global call to action co-hosted in London by the UK and Canadian governments in July.

Our **advocacy work has centred around threats to freedom of expression online** and in particular UK plans to regulate social media platforms. We gave evidence to parliamentary committees and consultations, hosted UN special rapporteur David Kaye, and met companies and pressure groups to discuss regulating speech on the internet. As governments and societies worldwide grapple with the challenges of unfettered online speech, Index is well placed to help ensure proper consideration is given to free speech protections in this brave new digital world.

In August, **we launched Free Speech is For Me**, our initiative to train and provide mentoring to individuals from communities and backgrounds where freedom of expression has become challenged as a concept. **We will recruit six individuals from the UK and the United States** for what we hope will become a major pillar of our work.



Inform

Magazine

This year, Index on Censorship magazine has published articles by some of the world's greatest writers including Elif Shafak, Ian Rankin, Kerry Hudson, Emilie Pine, Brian Patten, Ahmet Altan and Xinran. It also carried interviews with worldwide leaders in their fields, from actor Neil Pearson to author Ngugi Wa Thiong'o. In our culture section we publish new fiction as well as fiction or poetry that has never previously been translated into English. This year has included the first ever English translation of Marguerite Duras' *Le Camion*.

The magazine's entire online archive became free for the first time ever this year, making more than 45 years of publications of Index on Censorship magazine free to read globally.

Thanks to our publishers SAGE, the archive is now available on the SAGE Publishing website, where users can browse by year or keyword search. Until this year, access to the magazine archive had been through paid subscription. From 2019 all back issues of the magazine, excluding the four most recent issues, will be freely available.



The magazine is **available in more than 9,000 universities worldwide and more than 2,000 hard copies** of the magazine were distributed for free at events globally during the year.

Autumn 2018: The Age of Unreason

This edition asked whether we are turning away from facts, reason and science in favour of emotions, with articles about why we are willing to believe lies and from Turkey exploring the attack on science in the education system. Outside the special report, Nobel Prize winner Herta Müller discussed being threatened by the secret police in Romania.

Winter 2018: Birth, marriage and death

This issue looked at why different societies stop people discussing the most significant events in life: from China to Brazil to Scotland. We also featured an original play from Syrian dramatist Liwaa Yazji and new writing from flash fiction author Neema Komba.

Spring 2019: Is this all the local news?

We considered the impact when local newspapers disappear and decline, including a specially commissioned survey on UK newspapers, and a look at how Italy is stopping journalists reporting on refugees crossing the Mediterranean. Plus an original short story by historian and China expert Jeffrey Wasserstrom.

Summer 2019: Judged

Our special report explored what happens when the independence of the justice system is gone and lawyers no longer stand with journalists and activists to fight for freedom of expression? This issue also included a short story from award-winning author Claudia Pineiro and an interview with the imprisoned best-selling Turkish author Ahmet Altan.

Tim Hetherington Fellowship

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

Awarded each year to a recent graduate of LJMU, the fellowship – named after photojournalist, filmmaker and artist Tim Hetherington – offers hands-on journalism 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.

"The Tim Hetherington Fellowship is an incredible opportunity that has provided me with invaluable experience and the skills needed to accelerate my journalism career. Through my time at Index, I have gained fascinating insights into limitations to free expression around the world and understand just how important it is to make your voice heard."



Lewis Jennings, 2018/19 Tim Hetherington fellow

Inform

Online

Our website and social media accounts provide us with a vital platform to showcase our advocacy, magazine and events work as well as to report on and analyse topical freedom of expression threats and issues as they arise. Average monthly pageviews for the 12 months to 31 July were 54,832 compared to 93,514 in the same period a year earlier as our audience shifts increasingly to social media.

Our Facebook page has 11,000 likes and our main Twitter account has 69,200 followers.

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. Index currently has three projects aimed at doing just that.



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1. Journalists Toolbox

This Journalists' Toolbox section brings together a collection of articles from Index on Censorship correspondents. 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 a reputation for excellence. The Journalists Toolbox aims to share experience and knowledge between journalists and other writers around the world to help them tackle similar problems.

2. 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 26 interviews with journalists subjected to campaigns of harassment and intimidation over their work in countries from Azerbaijan to Zimbabwe.

3. Turkey Uncensored

Turkey Uncensored is an online project publishing articles from censored Turkish writers, artists and translators, with a particular focus on stories that are little 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 have their jobs.



Since January 2018 we have published 26 interviews with journalists subjected to campaigns of harassment and intimidation as part of Project Exile over their work in countries from Azerbaijan to Zimbabwe



Monitoring Media Freedom

Our Monitoring and Advocating for Media Freedom project monitors threats, limitations and violations related to media freedom in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine to identify and analyse issues, trends and drivers and explore possible response options and opportunities for advocating media freedom.

It builds on our Mapping Media Freedom project which monitored the European Union and neighbouring countries from 2014-2018.

Our latest report, Trolls and Insults, examined the way in which the government of Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has turned its attention to silencing critics in exile following the total capture of the media environment inside the country.

Arts Censorship Support Service

In May, we launched a new service to support arts organisations facing censorship. Building on a successful programme of workshops for senior managers and boards in 2018, the Arts Censorship Support Service is open to anyone in the cultural sector, employed or self-employed and the initial consultation is free of charge.

Index on Censorship staff – as well as a network of senior-level cultural sector and legal professionals with significant experience in managing complex ethical, reputational and legal issues – are available to offer advice on a wide range of issues, including:

- Checking at the earliest stage of production of a new work whether there is the potential of a legal challenge
- Advising on a communications strategy in support of provocative work
- Advising how to manage hostile media attention
- Providing moral support and guidance on how to deal with the emotional stress associated with controversy.

A resource centre on the Index website also provides information via case studies that examine examples of how arts organisations have handled highly sensitised, contentious and complex issues in today's society. Collectively, the case studies aim to equip arts organisations and artists with insight into what worked and what didn't, what was contested, and what lessons were learned.

The Arts Censorship Support Service is part of a broader programme of work offering practical tools for tackling censorship. Index also offers bespoke training and consultancy at all levels, from one-to-one consultancy to boards and staff training, from schools' workshops to development of guidance on freedom of expression.

Later in 2019, our five guides on the laws governing freedom of expression in the UK are being reissued for a more general audience in response to growing demand for clearer guidance on what constitutes legal expression.



Support

Index supports individuals and groups facing censorship through its Freedom of Expression Awards Fellowship. Launched in 2015, the awards 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. Over 200 Index friends and supporters attended the event, which was hosted by comedian Nish Kumar.

The 2019 fellows are:

Arts: Zehra Dogan

When journalist and artist Zehra Dogan realised her reports from Turkey's Kurdish region were being ignored by mainstream media, she began painting the destruction in the town of Nusaybin and sharing it on social media. For this she was arrested and imprisoned. In jail, Dogan continued to write and paint despite the administration's refusal to supply her with materials. Dogan was freed from jail in February and in May exhibited at the Tate art gallery in London.



Campaigning: Cartoonist Rights Network International

A small organisation with a big impact, CRNI monitors threats and abuses against editorial cartoonists worldwide. CRNI helps to focus international attention on cases in which cartoonists are persecuted and put pressure on the persecutors, tracking censorship, fines, penalties and physical intimidation – including of family members, assault, imprisonment and even killings. Index will work to help CRNI further raise its profile and its fundraising efforts in 2019/20.



Digital Activism: Fundación Karisma

Fundación Karisma is a Colombian civil society organisation that challenges online trolls by using witty online 'stamps' that flag up internet abuse. It is an initiative using humour to draw attention to a serious problem: the growing online harassment of women in Colombia and its chilling effect. The organisation offers a rare space to discuss many issues at the intersection of human rights and technology and tackles them through research, advocacy and digital tools.



Journalism: Mimi Mefo

Mefo is an award-winning broadcast journalist at private media house Equinoxe TV and Radio working to address Cameroon's climate of repression and self-censorship. Mefo was arrested in November 2018 after publishing reports that the military was behind the death of an American missionary and is a leading voice in exposing the harassment of other Cameroonian journalists. In July, she spoke at the UK's global conference on media freedom.



About the Fellowship

The awards fellowship has four main goals:



Survive

Index helps fellows build key partnerships, troubleshoot and receive expert support in multiple areas including digital security, strategy and communications so they can continue their work.

"The fellowship has connected us with technology experts, and helped build capacity for our staff members and senior members of management."

ECRF, Campaigning fellows 2018

Thrive

Fellows work with Index and partners to identify and realise key strategic goals.

"The recognition and support from Index has been a motivator and helped me rediscover the value of doing journalism that is ethical, honest and rigorous."

Wendy Funes, Journalism fellow 2018

Amplify

Index promotes news and regional developments through our magazine, website and social media.

"The award has increased how well known the project is and how serious it appears to the public."

Habari RDC, Digital activism fellows 2019

Network

Fellows become part of a supportive community of free expression champions worldwide.

"It has been an incredible experience to be part of the fellowship. Throughout the year we felt supported, and that helped us to carry out our work with more strength and security. Index is an indisputable part of all the struggles of their fellows."

Museum of Dissidence, Art fellows 2018

How the fellowships work: Wendy Funes

Index awarded the 2018 Freedom of Expression Awards Fellowship in Journalism to Wendy Funes, an investigative journalist based in Honduras. During the year of her fellowship, Index supported with business planning and advice, funding applications and seed funding for a new training centre, which opened in 2019. She was selected to be a judge for UNESCO's prestigious Guillermo Cano World press freedom prize in 2018.

"We are happy for all the support that Index has given us to consolidate a project that is one of our big dreams and whose first stones bear the seal and the helping hand of Index."

Wendy Funes



Influence

Index on Censorship is one of the world's leading experts on 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 norms on freedom of expression; and educating sector leaders on their rights and on best practice for protecting freedom of speech.



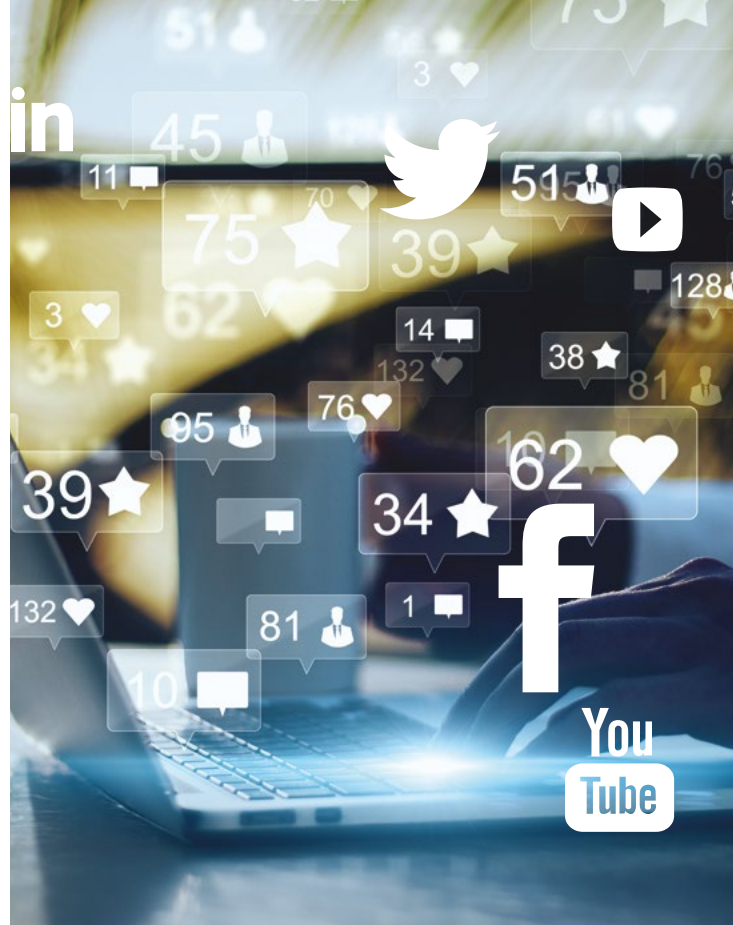


Media

Index completed its four year monitoring project, Mapping Media Freedom, during the year with a final report that examined trends in Europe and neighbouring countries, including threats to media freedom from national security laws, restrictions on public broadcasting and in covering protests. Index – along with colleagues at English PEN – intervened in the case of two Northern Irish journalists being investigated over a documentary that examined claims of state collusion in the murders of six men. We were pleased the investigation was dropped following the judicial review.

Campaigning by Index and partner organisations helped to secure safeguards for journalistic work in the UK's widely criticised Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019, but concerns remain about protection of journalists' sources when stopped by border officials.

Index also played a key role in a major UK conference on media freedom in July 2019 and continues to provide alerts to the Council of Europe platform for the protection of journalism, which makes member states aware of attacks on media freedom.



Digital

Our work this year has largely focused on the UK's proposals to regulate social media platforms to enhance user safety. Index has been actively engaged with a wide range of stakeholders on this issue – from government to civil service to technology companies to media organisations. Along with other free speech organisations, we are ensuring that freedom of expression is a key item on the agenda.

We are active members of the Global Network Initiative, which brings together tech and telecommunications companies, civil society organisations, academics and investors, to work on free speech and tech issues globally and work closely with European and global partners to defend freedom of expression online.

Academic

In late 2018, Index launched its special report on freedom of expression on UK university campuses, along with guidelines and recommendations for government, university authorities and student groups. Index speaks regularly on the topic of freedom of expression in universities worldwide, including talks this year at Griffith University in Brisbane, Oxford University, and Sheffield.



Debate

Index has made it an explicit target to reach new audiences. We rarely sit still. In 2018/19, Index staff took part in more than 70 public events, from keynote speeches to academic seminars to post-show discussions – with some uncensored story-telling thrown in for good measure. We spoke everywhere from Berlin to Birmingham, from New York to Norwich and from San Francisco to Southend. In the process, we reached more than 6,000 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.



70+ 
public events



worldwide

6,000+
people reached

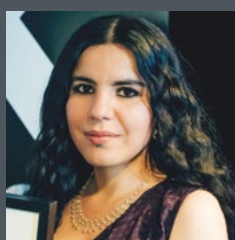
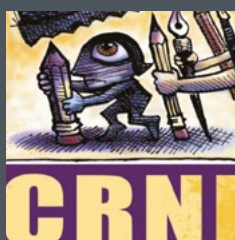
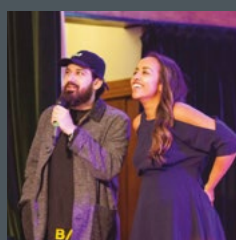
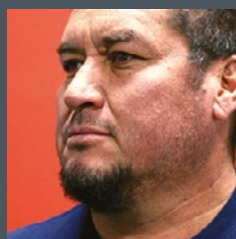
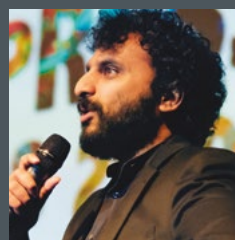
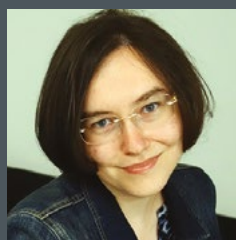
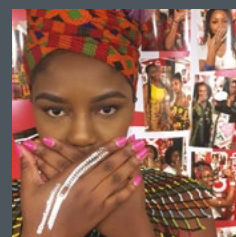
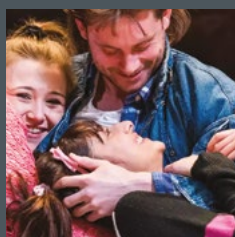
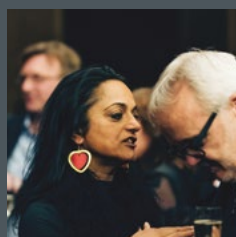
regularly quoted by

THE  TIMES



theguardian

The Daily Telegraph



PLANS FOR

2019

/20





A note from the CEO

“Free speech” has become something of a dirty word in the past few years. Adopted as a mantra by those who use it to justify bigoted and hateful views, it has become sullied, creating a space in which more and more people are willing to champion censorship as a way of fighting repression. Yet we know from our work that freedom of expression is a powerful force for good, an essential tool through which minorities can fight for their rights, and that censorship almost always benefits the oppressor, not the oppressed.

To tackle this, Index has launched Free Speech Is For Me, a programme in the United States and United Kingdom, that will offer training and mentoring to individuals from communities that have become sceptical about the value of free speech. Free Speech Is For Me aims to reclaim freedom of expression as a universal value and a fundamental freedom that can benefit all.

In addition, we’ll be touring US campuses in autumn and spring with individuals who have faced censorship to help spur discussions about why censorship rarely weeds out only “bad” speech.

We’re also responding to increased demand for clear information about the laws governing freedom of expression in the UK with a reissue of our Art and the Law guidance, which considered UK legislation and case law on free speech, for a general audience. And we’ll be responding to challenges faced by employers and individuals in navigating freedom of expression online with new consultancy and advisory services.

As we head towards the 20th anniversary of the Index awards in 2020 and to our 50th anniversary in 2022, we look forward to working with partners old and new.

Jodie Ginsberg

AND BEYOND



Fundraising

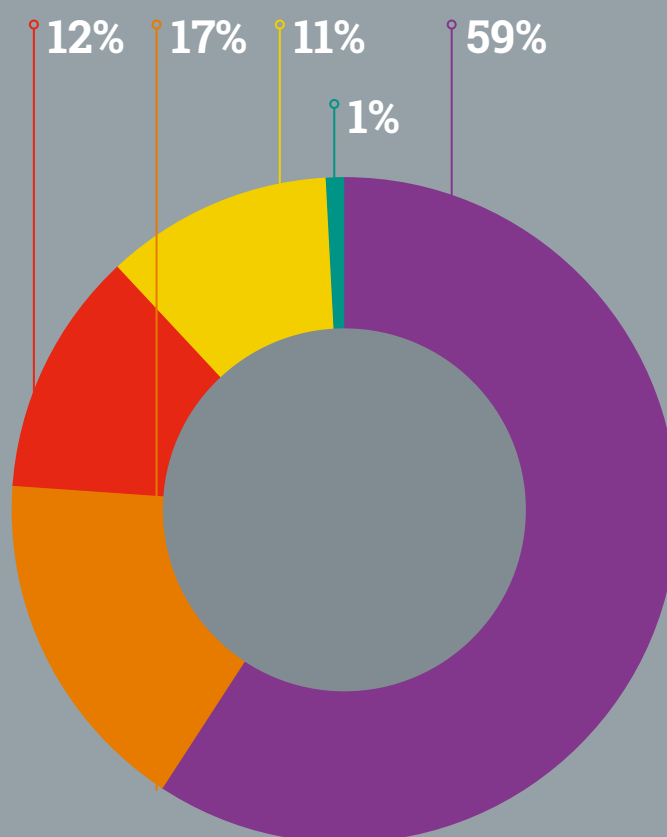
Index on Censorship receives funding from a variety of sources. Our independence is of central importance to us and is ensured by an independent board of trustees. Funders do not – and are not able to – set the policies of the organisation or of the projects they fund, nor may they have input into, or 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 ● Clifford Chance ● John S Cohen Foundation ● Doughty Street Chambers ● Edwardian Hotels ● Facebook ● the European Commission ● Fritt Ord ● Google ● Hachette UK ● Charles Koch Institute ● Liverpool John Moores University ● Mainframe ● Maltby Minerva Fund ● David McCune ● National Endowment for Democracy ● Noel Coward Foundation ● OSF ● the Elaine and David Potter Foundation ● Private Internet Access ● Psiphon ● Sage Publications ● Twitter ● VICE News ● Vodafone and Wellesley College, as well as many individuals and smaller donors.

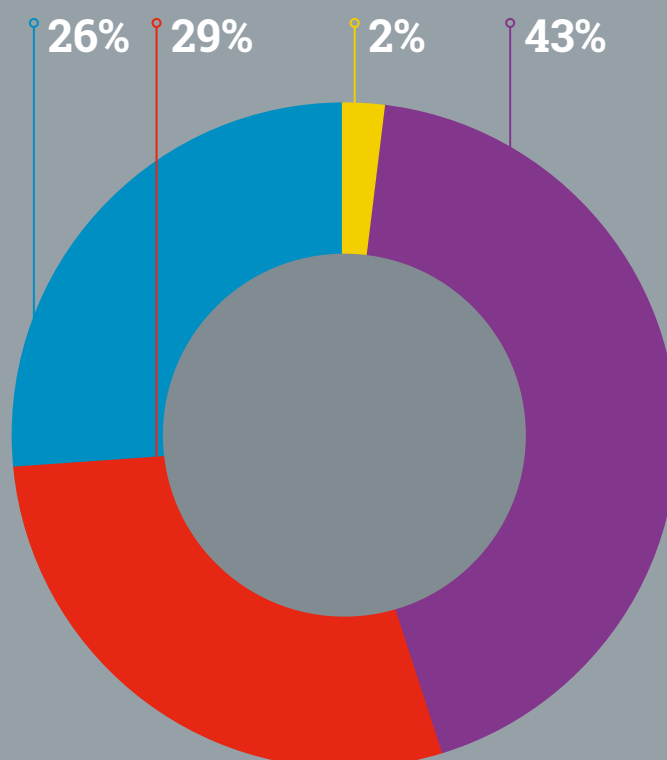


Financial Report 2018-19

Source	Income (£)
Projects & Programmes	534,182
Donations & Gifts	156,092
Magazine Income	104,627
Campaigning & Events	94,519
Other Income	9,978
Total	899,398



Source	Expenditure (£)
Projects and Programmes	393,575
Magazine & Other Publications	266,443
Fundraising	239,578
Administration	14,068
Total	913,664*



* Index recorded a small loss in 2018-19 due to accounting changes related to the establishment of our tax-exempt US fundraising entity, Friends of Index.

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

Trevor Phillips (Chair)

David Aaronovitch

Anthony Barling

Kiri Kankhwende

Kate Maltby

Sanjay Nazerali

Elaine Potter

David Schlesinger

Mark Stephens

Management

Jodie Ginsberg – Chief Executive

Rachael Jolley – Magazine Editor, Deputy Chief Executive

Matt Townsend – Head of Operations

David Sewell – Finance Director

Sean Gallagher – Head of Content

Joy Hyvarinen – Head of Advocacy



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