

# WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 325003

## Details

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Other names	INDEX ARTS, INDEX ON CENSORSHIP
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Company number	<a href="#">10188386</a>
Registered	1974-02-26
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Website	<a href="http://www.indexoncensorship.org">www.indexoncensorship.org</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSES INCLUDING THE ADVANCEMENT AD PROMOTION BY TEACHING LECTURING AND PUBLISHING OR DISSEMINATING IN WRITTEN OR SPOKEN FORM OR OTHERWISE AS SHALL BEST ADVANCE AND ENCOURAGE EDUCATION OR OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE STUDY OF POLITICAL ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS. (SEE DETAILS OF CLAUSE 1 OF SUPPLEMENTAL DEED)

**Activities:** Such charitable purposes including the advancement and promotion by teaching, lecturing, publishing or disseminating in written or spoken form or otherwise, as shall best advance and encourage education or other charitable purposes beneficial to the community in connection with the study of political, economic, social, natural sciences and the humanities and human rights.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Albania
- Angola
- Argentina
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia And Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Burkina Faso
- China
- Congo (Democratic Republic)
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Czech Republic
- Egypt
- Eritrea
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Honduras
- Hungary
- India
- Iran
- Ireland
- Italy
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Latvia
- Macedonia
- Malaysia

- Maldives
- Malta
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Northern Ireland
- Pakistan
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United States
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zimbabwe
- Liverpool City
- Throughout London

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,250,410	£1,373,871	£446,111	11
2024-03-31	£1,398,963	£1,319,743	£569,572	10
2023-03-31	£1,591,114	£1,267,088	£490,352	9
2022-03-31	£1,136,618	£1,002,113	£166,326	8
2021-03-31	£811,132	£664,568	£31,821	8

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Trevor Phillips</b>	Chair	2018-10-04
Andrew Franklin		2021-01-07
Charlotte McCallum		2025-09-02
Helen Mountfield		2023-07-12
Ian Rosenblatt		2024-04-23
Kate Maltby		2016-07-08
Katy Steward		2026-01-29
Nick Timothy		2023-07-12
WSET (Trustee) Ltd		2016-06-23

**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 325003

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# Accounts

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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The Trustees submit their annual report and the financial statements of the charity and group (consisting of Writers and Scholars Educational Trust and its subsidiary – Writers and scholars International Limited) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The Trustees have complied with statutory requirements and the requirements of the charity's Trust Deed, in preparing the financial statements.

Trustees' Report sections

- 1) About Index
- 2) Chair's Statement
- 3) Our Aims
- 4) 2024/25 Overview
- 5) Plans for 2025-26

#### **ABOUT INDEX ON CENSORSHIP**

Index on Censorship is a non-profit organisation, based in the UK. We campaign for, report on and defend freedom of expression worldwide. We believe everyone should be free to express themselves without fear of harm or persecution.

Our aim is to raise awareness about the value of free speech and highlight 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, as well as run campaigns protecting the right to freedom of expression both online and in real life.

Our ultimate goal is to expose oppressive actions and attacks to freedom of expression wherever they may be, and to ensure that there is a space for the voice of the otherwise silenced.

#### **CHAIR'S STATEMENT**

It is good news that more and more people now claim that freedom of speech and freedom of expression are foundational elements of a democratic society. The not-so-great news is that many of the converts to freedom of speech seem surprised that these freedoms might be deployed to express ideas that they find repugnant.

That rejection of open-mindedness has this year taken many forms, from the routine exclusion of unsympathetic reporters from government briefings, through the persecution of dissident artists and attempts to "cancel" opponents, to the killings of journalists bravely attempting to report the reality of war.

For Index on Censorship there is an ever present paradox : on the one hand, vocal support for our cause from governments and prominent individuals, while on the other, demands that we support, what is in effect, suppression of views thought by some to be disagreeable.

The conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine, as well as continuing domestic controversies over sex, gender and ethnicity daily present requests for us to chastise views said to be offensive or in some way unacceptable.

This we will never do.

Physical intimidation and threat are the enemies of personal freedom, but the expression of unpalatable ideas are the mark of the free society. As we frequently have to point out, there is no right not to be offended, whether in domestic or international law.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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Happily, more than half a century of experience embodied in our organisation, and the commitment of our board and staff team, usually make the choices easy. Presented with a conflict between noisy argument and comfortable silence, even if dressed up as an appeal to psychological safety, we opt enthusiastically for no-holds-barred debate.

Where there are grey zones - for example, whether to proscribe organisations that may lend succour to genuine terrorists - we believe that the state must make an unimpeachable case before silencing even the distasteful and one-sided campaigning on behalf of - say - Palestine Action.

Against this background, some ask whether Index retains the “progressive” spirit of its founders. This report on our work during the past twelve months amply demonstrates, that under the new leadership of our CEO, Jemimah Steinfeld, we are doing exactly that - and to boot, we are working hard to meet the challenge of new incursions on freedom of expression presented by new technologies and legal constraints.

I am grateful to my fellow Trustees and to our professional team for their sterling work. During the past few years we have continued to raise our capacity to respond to immediate threats to freedom of expression.

But in the past year we have stepped up our focus on rebuilding the finances and governance of Index, so that our support for those who face persecution is sustainable in the long term. We owe our progress on the latter objective to the steadfast backing of our widening band of supporters and funders. We - and many thousands of writers, artists, and campaigners around the world - are immensely grateful.

Trevor Phillips

## OUR AIMS

### Inform

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 our magazine, website and social media, monitoring and reporting of freedom of expression violations, and events and media.

### Support

Index supports censored writers, academics, artists and those facing censorship and threats to free expression. We achieve this through publishing the work of dissidents in our magazine and online, through legal support, and through our Freedom of Expression Awards.

### Influence

Index uses the expertise and information gathered in its award-winning magazine, in its online reporting, and through research and monitoring projects to campaign for change on specific freedom of expression issues. We achieve this through media campaigns and by lobbying governments on different issues. We work with other organisations to strengthen the power of our advocacy.

### Debate

Open debate is a central tenet of free expression and so Index actively promotes and leads discussion about the limits and concerns surrounding free expression, tackling subjects that are often ignored by mainstream media, that are the most challenging and contentious within society, and by taking discussions to different audiences.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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Overview of the year 2024/25

#### SLAPPs

The campaign to abolish SLAPPs in the UK remains popular, with cross party support. The general election 2024 was a set-back, putting on hold a Private Members' Anti-SLAPP Bill that was meant to go before parliament, but we are continuing to make the case and gain more advocates at a ministerial level.

Index remains a leading partner organisation in the EU, UK and the island of Ireland anti-SLAPP coalitions, campaigning against these vexatious lawsuits. Since September 2024 Daisy Ruddock, our former editorial assistant, has led the CASE Coalition, and we manage Daisy here.

We are launching a report this Autumn (in parliament) to highlight SLAPPs in relation to sexual assault. We have been at various high-level debates in Irish and Scottish parliament, with promising sounds to get legislation over the line. In Scotland specifically, the Scottish Anti-SLAPP working group, which is chaired by Index, was a prominent actor in the recent Scottish Government consultation on SLAPPs. When the consultation was publicly announced by the minister in a Parliamentary committee, the summit we organised last year was mentioned.

#### Transnational repression

We have continued to develop our work investigating and highlighting transnational repression (TNR) – when autocratic states reach beyond borders to silence dissent – as a broader concept undermining freedom of speech in democratic countries. We co-founded the tackling TNR in the UK Working Group and sit on the steering group. We have delivered a lecture on TNR in the UK at Mansfield College, Oxford, and been invited to a series of talks on it in places including the US Embassy and Parliament. We also now have a network of victims, who we support in meaningful ways, including the Chinese artist Badiucao.

#### ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

##### INFORM

#### Magazine

Since its establishment in 1972, Index on Censorship magazine has published some of the greatest names in literature including Sir Salman Rushdie, Samuel Beckett, Nadine Gordimer, Mario Vargas Llosa, Hilary Mantel and Kurt Vonnegut. It also has published some of the greatest campaigning writers of our age from Vaclav Havel, Amartya Sen and Ariel Dorfman.

The magazine is available in more than 9,000 universities worldwide and had over a million article downloads in 2024/5

We have had some lively, dynamic and engaging magazine launches, in particular our winter launch, where all tickets sold out. We also welcomed the release of a documentary on the History Channel about war time atrocities on the island of Alderney, which built on Martin Bright's Index investigation.

#### Summer 2024 Issue

The summer issue on cinema looked at how cinema is used as a tool to help shape the global political narrative by investigating who controls what we see on the screen and why they want us to see it. We spoke to Hollywood insiders, as well as filmmakers.

Katie Dancey-Down's year-long investigation into censorship in UK libraries was also published in this issue. This story was picked up by all the major UK publications. At the time it was quoted in Parliament and indeed it still being referenced today.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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In July 2024 we were delighted to be notified that this 2023 issue had won the Apex Grand Award for excellence in publishing. This is a US-based awards body, which gives out awards to non-mainstream magazines and journals.

#### **Autumn 2024 Issue**

The autumn issue examined how scientists face censorship, as in many places around the world, adherence to ideology stands in the way of scientific progress. We demonstrated how such nations cracked down on scientific advancement, and lent a voice to those who face punishment for their scientific achievements.

As part of promotion for the magazine, we produced a joint editorial in the Independent around animal testing and silencing of those who speak up.

Outside of the special report, we were delighted to publish interviews with Christy Moores and Marina Litvinenko, and a short story from Boris Akunin.

#### **Winter 2024 Issue**

The winter issue explored how music is being silenced globally. Religious extremism, political factions, racism and nationalism are all driving forces, stopping it being performed, produced and listened to. The issue looked at how music bans have been weaponised to silence communities and erase histories. It contained an interview with Bobi Wine and Iranian popstar Golazin. Outside of the special report, we also interviewed Evgenia Kara-Murza and published an essay from Dimi Reider marking the one-year anniversary of 7th October.

Links to the magazine featured several times in daily newsletters of the New Statesman, reaching very wide audiences.

#### **Spring 2025 Issue**

The spring issue covered the forgotten patient, looking at people whose voices might be marginalised in healthcare. Martin Bright probed into how women voices in UK healthcare specifically are silenced. Big names included Michael Rosen, Zahra Joya and Annabel Sowemimo.

The magazine was featured in Press Gazette, The New Arab, Rukhshana Media and Eurozine.

#### **Online**

We made some changes to the website to make the appearance look sleeker. We've integrated more articles from the magazine on Sage into the website, with the view of bringing the two closer together and being able to utilise the articles we commission for the magazine across platforms. We also have a new column that homes in on specific anniversaries and/or key events and links articles from our archive alongside new commissions. All of this is in addition to us publishing two to four articles per week and making improvements to SEO. The aim is to keep our site lively and fresh, as well as to fulfil our core duty of publishing and spotlighting voices that are being suppressed. Of the latter, we therefore continue to publish high-profile names alongside the lesser-known, in line with our ethos that this elevates the latter. Finally we moved away from an external communications company to an inhouse marketing manager in September 2024 and have increased our presence across social media, with the view to push more stories out and to do so more creatively.

We have seen a 25% increase in page views year-on-year and a 40% increase in visitors to our site. Whether this is down to the new strategy is hard to determine and ascertaining what is going well will be key to our website strategy moving forward.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### SUPPORT

##### **Commissioning writers and artists**

Index supports artists and writers by directly commissioning them and featuring their stories in the magazine. This might sound like a small form of support but oftentimes it's not – in places where writers are under attack it provides them with income and shows solidarity. We also shine a light on their experiences. We support visual artists under attack as well by featuring their work in our magazine, significantly on our front cover – something that is very prestigious and helps with their career.

##### **Giving a voice to political prisoners**

Index has always taken a leading role in campaigning for the release of political prisoners. At the end of 2024 we welcomed news that Iranian rapper Toomaj Salehi, our 2023 Freedom of Expression Arts Award winner, had been released from prison – something that had been a campaign of ours for over a year.

We are very active in the campaign to free Hong Kong media mogul Jimmy Lai, alongside other Hong Kong political prisoners, speaking on panels about them and raising awareness of their plight online and in the magazine.

Our work on political prisoners in Belarus continues. This is important work for us, given the number of people in prison there and the little interest given to them by other organisations. It is also personal for us - one of our former colleagues, Andrei Aliaksandrau, remains behind bars in Belarus for paying the fines of those protesting the contested election in August 2020. Over the last year, we have staged a protest outside the Belarus Embassy in London, we have had several articles on our site from Belarussians and we have featured the poetry of one (Hanna Komar) at an event in January. Our "Letters from Lukashenka's Prisoners" project has now been turned into an exhibition, which has been displayed in London, Warsaw and the Hague.

In addition to the above, we are publishing letters from a Thai political prisoner in the Autumn issue of the magazine. We are also soon to start on a project to platform letters from Afghan women, rooted in the idea that they are now forced into a domestic prison.

##### **Advising SLAPP targets**

We continue to support and advise those affected by legal harassment (SLAPPs) by connecting them with legal support, helping to coordinate trial monitoring for their cases, and preparing submissions to the court where relevant. In the case of journalists, we also file media freedom alerts to the Council of Europe Platform, through which states are informed of cases of legal harassment against the media.

Our SLAPPs work has expanded this year to include advising victims of sexual assault who have been gagged when naming their assailants, and we look forward to launching our report examining this topic later in the year.

##### **Awards**

Our work to support individuals is complemented through our Freedom of Expression Awards, where we seek to support those who are targeted for defending free expression. Awards are offered in three categories: arts, campaigning 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. As part of the awards programme, the winners are given a financial grant and we seek to give them and their work more profile than they would otherwise have. Additionally our trustees present an award to a particular individual who is noted for their long-time commitment to freedom of expression.

Our 2024 awards were very successful, including media coverage in the Times where they were referenced in two separate articles.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 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:

- 1) Campaigning on behalf of individuals facing censorship
- 2) Exposing new and emergent threats
- 3) Providing contemporary analysis of comparable restrictions.

#### **Legal harassment (SLAPPs)**

A core element of Index's work is to analyse and expose the impact of legal harassment of journalists and other public watchdogs (SLAPPs) across Europe. This is dominating our media advocacy work as we lead efforts for changes in the legal framework which enable SLAPPs currently.

#### **Transnational repression**

Through a combination of diplomatic, cultural and economic levers repressive regimes are increasingly seeking to shape international discourse according to their own narrative. Many are not as aware as they should be about how prolific the various tactics are becoming and we intend to take a leading role here to highlight them and help those most impacted.

#### **Digital**

Our work this year continues to consider Indian legislation that seeks to dismantle digital rights in the country and could be a signpost for other countries to follow, and to fight attempts to create a backdoor in the UK in terms of end-to-end encryption. We are now also looking at the impact of AI in terms of trust, truth and digital literacy.

#### **Banned books**

After a six-year hiatus we are once again acting as the UK lead for Banned Books Week. This builds on our broader work on banned books, including an inhouse investigation published last summer looking at book banning in the UK. This has been cited several times in UK parliament.

#### DEBATE

Index has made it one of our primary goals to reach new audiences. Annually Index staff take part in more than 50 public events, including book launches, panel discussions and performances of banned plays.

We host our own events, including launches of our four magazines a year which feature lively speakers and interesting discussions that connect to magazine content.

Some events we have taken part in this year include a SLAPPs conference in Dublin (which we organised), being part of the British Book Awards for their Freedom to Publish Award, partaking in an event organised by The Stage on where to draw lines in terms of hate speech, chairing a panel about artistic freedom in the digital age in Taipei, hosting a listening party for Toomaj Salehi in Glasgow and speaking at Mansfield College Oxford on transnational repression.

In addition to public events, Index is actively engaged in outreach through the media. We are regularly quoted by or appear in outlets such as the BBC (online and radio), Guardian, Financial Times, Times and Telegraph on freedom of expression issues and are the go-to commentator on matters of freedom of expression.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### PLANS FOR 2025/26: A NOTE FROM OUR CEO, JEMIMAH STEINFELD

This has been a very busy past year, from the departure of our former CEO, Ruth Anderson, who we thank for her contributions, and broader staff changes to embracing new workstreams, and indeed responding to a changing global climate. Some of this has been challenging, including the financial outlook, which has been unsettled by changes in the fundraising landscape, particularly with the US policy towards USAID, and by an expanding list of areas of concern (Georgia, USA and other countries) which we cannot always respond to in their entirety.

In some ways this new landscape is a time to nail down into what we really do best – to accept that we can't do everything and instead ask questions about where we really can leverage impact. Fine-tuning our strategy to meet the demands of the moment will be key for 2025/26. Part of this is to make sure we are not in an echo chamber. Index must fill the void, not add to the noise. This does not mean we should be absent from conversations, but we have to give them the right amount of prioritisation, measured by how directly related to freedom of expression they are and how cluttered the space is, as well as the areas where we have expertise to respond effectively.

With that in mind, we will soon launch our Letters from Afghan Women project, which will see us partnering with women on the ground in Afghanistan to publish their words – at the heart of what the Taliban is attacking. It will be an empowering and moving project at a time when many in the world have forgotten about Afghanistan and Afghan women. We will continue our work on political prisoners in Belarus, touring our exhibition, which has led to engagement at a top level with their plight. We are now part of a transnational repression taskforce, which brings together a series of experts who meet regularly to address the latest threats and how to respond. Through this and other work in the field we've been able to identify the area most under-resourced, which is in terms of the attacks to artists, and we intend to centre that in our work here moving forward. Of artists more broadly, we are investigating the state of self-censorship in UK art institutions, building on a body of research that suggests we are over-emphasising some storylines and shying away from others.

At the same time, we continue our work on SLAPPs and end-to-end encryption, as areas where we have amassed a huge amount of knowledge and have become leading voices in the space. We hope to relaunch our work on India's digital landscape over the coming year too, and to do deeper work in China, which has seen an exodus of international media in recent years due to the increasingly restrictive landscape, thus depriving us of more varied and granular stories, and depriving those inside the country of frameworks to support their rights.

We are also monitoring closely free expression issues in the UK. Some of these involve a particularly nuanced approach, such as conversations around Kneecap and Palestine Action, while there are many others that could easily absorb a lot of our time. We need to decide where we land here, as a UK-based organisation with a global remit, and knowing that many other organisations work in the UK on overlapping areas.

Finally, at this particular moment, when even the meaning of free speech itself is being undermined, we need to respond with bravery, with boldness and with work that moves people – this is how we will continue to be respected and will change minds.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### FUNDING

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 of the following during the year:

89 Up Ltd  
Arts Council England  
Ben Delo Foundation  
Edwardian Hotels  
Fritt Ord  
Google  
Hachette  
Hollick Family Foundation  
Ian Rosenblatt  
Jenner and Block  
Justice For Journalists  
Liverpool John Moores University  
Kate Maltby  
Meta  
Neil Blair Partnership  
New Philanthropy Capital  
Next Generation Europe  
Oak Foundation  
Open Society Foundation  
Open University  
Profile Books  
Sage Publications  
Sigrid Rausing Foundation  
Steinfeld Law  
The Times & Sunday Times

and various individuals who have supported the organisation through individual donations or through subscription to the magazine.

The charity is a member of the Fundraising Regulator and has not received any complaints about our practices. It does not employ third-party fundraising agencies, nor does it directly court the general public.

#### **Fundraising**

The financial year 2024-25 saw total income have a drop from £1,250,410 compared with the previous year's £1,398,963, mainly accounted for by a reduction in core grants of £58,821 and a reduction in charitable activities (project) funding of £97,211. Donations on the year increased by £80,786, largely accounted for by a donation from the company to the Charity of £76,000. We received continued core funding from The Armitage Foundation (New Philanthropy Capital), Fritt Ord, and Arts Council England and Wales. We received a new core grant of £75,000 from the Sigrid Rausing Trust. We held our annual Freedom of Expression Awards fundraising evening, which saw a small increase in sponsorship from £56,250 the previous year to £58,500.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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The charity's income was down £154,602 from £1,062,571 in 2023-24 to £907,969. This was due to a combination of project funding not being renewed beyond the pilot year and the end of core funding from two Foundations. Our SLAPPs work continues to secure grant funding, with a new grant this year from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to enable us to continue our work in this area. The company's income remained steady, with a slight increase in income over the year of £6,049. This was comprised of the same funding sources as the previous year, with the increase being due to greater funded travel overseas to specific events and the small increase in sponsorship of our annual awards dinner.

At the date of these accounts, much of the above core funding has been renewed, although funding from The Open Society has now come to an end. We would like to thank them for their generous support over many years.

#### Financial Report and going concern

The Trustees report that after three years of surplus, we have returned a deficit, with a consequent reduction in our level of reserves. The company donated £76,000 to the Charity, otherwise it would have made a reasonable profit. After the donation, the company's loss on the year was £3,896. After the donation, the charity's deficit was £119,565. At year end, the total of reserves was £446,111, all of which is unrestricted, compared with £569,572 at the start of the financial year. The split between the two entities, sees the charity's reserves at £188,564 and the company's £257,547.

On turnover, we showed a decrease of £48,553 on the previous year as above in the fundraising section. Expenditure rose by £54,128 on the previous year, mainly accounted for by restricted reserves brought forward from last year being spent on the projects this year. There are no restricted grants left by the year end, so this will not be a factor going ahead. The company's expenditure rose from £49,420, to £106,005, a difference of £56,585, but this includes the £76,000 donation to the charity, so actual expenditure was actually reduced from the previous year by £19,415. The Charity's expenditure totalled £1,267,866, as compared with £1,270,323, representing a slight reduction of £2,457.

Of the £883,893 of charitable activity costs, there was barely any change in project costs on last year, while publishing costs rose by £122,885 made up almost entirely by an increase in support costs. Fundraising costs fell by £68,676 on the previous year. Overall, salary costs came in at £339,351, compared to £271,019 the previous year, due to reorganisation of staff with the incoming new CEO and taking comms and social media in-house (with corresponding saving on consultancy). Other overheads such as premises costs remained very similar to the previous year, other than governance costs which fell by £5,533. Total support costs rose by £42,653, again, largely accounted for by the increased staff costs. On financial variance, there were no significant overspends on budget. Computer and software costs were £2,041 over budget, due to new staff being supplied with new laptops and the corresponding software and security costs attendant on that. Variance across the whole budget versus actual was 5.95% under budget.

Cashflow projections remains healthy for the upcoming year, though we do forecast a far tougher fundraising landscape this year. With our relatively healthy reserves position built up over the last three years,, we have two investment accounts which this year brought in some £10,000 in interest.

#### Reserves policy

The reserves policy has been established by the Index board, with the desired level of reserves being based on a consideration of at-risk funding. The board feel this represents the most significant and measurable way of arriving at a reserves target. The target carried forward from last year was £168,000 of unrestricted funds, which equated to three months operating costs (£56,000 per month). The trustees are pleased to report that this target remains exceeded even with a deficit on the year, with a free reserves position at the end of the year of £446,112.

The level of unrestricted funds is £446,112

The level of restricted funds is £0

There are no designated or endowment funds.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees ensure that this purpose is carried out by the performance of services valued by the public both in the UK and internationally.

Both forms of editorial content (online and print) offer the highest quality of commissioned journalism and analysis, providing viewpoints from all parts of the spectrum of any free expression debate. Our expert editorial filter of censorship issues can be used to help those interested in free expression find contextualised and verified information in support of free speech. We augment the news, picking the most important and most interesting free expression stories and pushing them out to a wider audience. The interest shown by the public in several of the current debates around free expression throughout all media has been particularly well served by the charity. Index has been at the forefront of many such debates, able to deliver them in accessible form, through editorial content and events showcasing key figures from relevant fields and disciplines. At the same time we have extended geographical access to our debates through podcasting and video recordings available through our website and social media digital platforms. These reflect two of our objectives to inform and to encourage debate. We also conduct some of our events online which are geographically open to audiences worldwide, to augment in-person events which realistically are limited to local audiences. This year we have held events in Dublin, Oxford and Glasgow and had a touring exhibition to The Hague and Warsaw and spoken at events in Madrid, Taipei, Tbilisi and Belfast.

The research and articles published in Index on Censorship magazine are of direct relevance to specialist professionals in law, media, the arts and academia, but they also serve to deepen the knowledge and advance learning of the broader public, in the understanding and analysis of human rights. Some of the themes we have examined and commented on in what is a rapidly evolving free expression landscape, include AI, fake news, the right to protest, transnational repression and the influence of soft power. Without knowledge in these spheres, the public may be unable to make the informed decisions that are crucial for full participation in a free society. Extracts from the magazine continue to be offered for free on our website, while the entire archive from years previous to the current one is available for free online. Increasing social media followers and web viewing figures attest to the widening of our audience. We have continued to support media practitioners with our guidelines for operating in difficult media environments, be it under repressive regimes, or individuals and corporations who seek to 'chill' free speech.

Index continues to bring material to under-represented communities in the freedom of expression debate, and particularly expanding its reach towards greater numbers of young people and people involved in education. As part of this initiative, we work closely with several UK and international universities and offer several research roles for graduates and post-graduates.

In order to pursue our work in accordance with our mission and public benefit statements, we have a legitimate interest in holding and processing the data of both individuals and organisations.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### Governance and Management

##### Trustee Board

Trustees serve for a period of five years. Existing Trustees select members of the Trustee Board. Currently recruitment has occurred through personal recommendation and word of mouth. Rules and guidelines published by the Charity Commission on the responsibilities of being a Trustee are provided to all new Trustees. In addition, new Trustees are inducted in the charity by the Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees and ongoing Training is offered to existing ones.

Every effort is made to ensure that all specialist areas of the Charity's operation are represented. Candidates that strengthen the Board are always considered, with no upper limit on the number of Trustees. Trustees meet four times a year to review strategy, risk and performance and to approve the operating plans and budgets. The majority of Trustee meetings take place at spaces provided by one of the Trustees since the organisation no longer has premises of its own.

Responsibility for strategy, planning and the day-to-day management of operations is delegated to a management team led by the Chief Executive. Formal reporting by the Chief Executive takes place in writing a week prior to each Trustee meeting. The key issues arising from this report and any other matters are then discussed in detail at the Trustee meeting. Minutes are then circulated, within seven days, for approval at the subsequent Trustee meeting. In addition, the Treasurer meets monthly with the Head of Finance and quarterly the Chief Executive joins these meetings. The Treasurer acts as a check on financial best practice and oversees financial matters, where segregation of duties are not possible due to the relative small size of the staff.

The pay of the senior management team ('key management personnel') and all staff are regularly reviewed and where there are increases these are in line with average earnings and any cost-of-living adjustment. In view of the nature of the charity, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other charities. The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles in equivalent sized charities.

##### Risk Review

With a full risk register in place, throughout the year the Trustees consider the top five or ten risks anticipated or actually faced in the year, in terms of likelihood, impact, mitigations and responsibility. These are then added to the risk register as an update. The Trustees are satisfied that systems have been developed and are in place to mitigate identified risks to a satisfactory level. The last risk review was carried out by the Trustees in March 2025.

The issues considered were as follows:

- 1) **Funding.** The charity fundraising landscape has become more challenging across the sector over the last 18 months. With regards to our own position, we are experiencing a twin pressure, from both Trusts/Foundation and the Tech sector. The new President in the US has halted overseas funding which has in the short-term at least, impacted on two of our project disbursement grants and effectively halted applications to US Trusts and Foundations. While these original project grants have been reinstated, the US funding landscape remains unstable. The aim as ever is to diversify our funding streams, particularly in regard to individual giving both large and small, which have room for considerable expansion.
- 2) **Security:** Cyber-attacks and attempted financial frauds are becoming ever more sophisticated. Mitigations: the organisation has carried out a thorough security review over the last year, with consultation from expert partners. We have accordingly produced a full security manual for our operational practices and put in place best practice measures across our IT infrastructure.
- 3) **Our work on SLAPPs exposes us to receiving a SLAPP ourselves.** Mitigations: We ensure there is a full paper trail of our activities and publications and that the Board are kept informed so that they can continually assess their risk appetite for each and every action undertaken in this sphere. Anything with the faintest hint of leaving us vulnerable is run by lawyers.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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- 4) **Reputation.** We continue to defend people who cause offense. That can compromise us and our reputation. It can also muddy public perception of our mission and values, with us being seen as not defending the people perceived as more deserving of our support. We do of course support these people as well, but it is easy for people to focus on the others. Funders also could potentially fall into this realm, or they may adjudge us politically aligned (as against active in the political sphere, which we are always careful to execute in a non-partisan way).

Mitigations: we continue to ensure political non-partisanship and consider every case of who we choose to support/amplify and who we don't. These assessments involve need, impact and whether we're bringing anything unique to the freedom of expression angle in any case

- 5) **Overseas Travel.** While no staff member has undertaken travel to difficult regions around the globe, other people closely connected to the organisation did. Best practice advice was given and in light of these discussions, our travel policy, which was written pre-pandemic, has been refreshed and the policy added to the staff handbook, which itself was updated in the current year and circulated to all staff.

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and its financial activities for the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ascertain the financial position of the Charity and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware. They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**POWERS AND RESTRICTIONS**

The Trustees have absolute discretion to decide which of the Trust's purposes to forward, and no limitations on the means they adopt to do so. In particular, they have complete discretion to invest money as they wish and are therefore not bound by the provisions of the Trustee Investment Act.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips**  
Chair

Date: 18 September 2025

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### STATUS

The Writers and Scholars Educational Trust is a registered charity, number 325003, constituted by the Trust Deed dated 25 March 1971. In June 2016 the charity was converted into the status of a corporate trustee, WSET Trustee Ltd, company registered number 10188386. The Trustees of WSET resigned on 23 June and were immediately appointed as Directors of the corporate trustee WSET Trustee Ltd.

The directors of WSET Trustee Ltd are:

Trevor Phillips (Chair)  
Kate Maltby  
James Goode (Treasurer) (resigned 13/03/2025)  
Andrew Franklin  
Nick Timothy  
Helen Mountfield KC  
Ian Rosenblatt (appointed 23/04/2024)  
Charlotte McCallum (Treasurer) (Appointed 02/09/2025)

#### Management

Ruth Smeeth – Chief Executive (left 31/07/2024)  
Jemimah Steinfeld – Chief Executive  
David Sewell – Finance Director

**Charity registered number** 25003

#### The principal address and contact details

86-90 Paul Street  
London  
EC2A 4NE  
E-Mail: [jemimah@indexonensorship.org](mailto:jemimah@indexonensorship.org)  
Website: [www.indexonensorship.org](http://www.indexonensorship.org)

#### Independent auditors

HaysMac LLP  
10 Queen Street Place  
London  
EC4R 1AG

#### Bankers

Triodos Bank NV  
Deanery Road  
Bristol  
BS1 5A

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Writers and Scholars Educational Trust and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Charity Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of the charity's net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

#### Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's or charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

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#### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charity; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

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#### Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations is related to regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in certain accounting estimates and judgements such as the income recognition policy. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with appropriate regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Review of minutes of meetings to identify instances of fraud;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, fraud, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS AND SCHOLARS  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed



**HaysMac LLP**  
Statutory Auditors  
10 Queen Street Place  
London  
EC4R 1AG

Date: 30 September 2025

HaysMac LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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	Note	Unrestricted Fund 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	5	316,822	117,893	434,715	494,536
Charitable activities	6	146,718	597,859	744,577	841,788
Other trading activities	7	60,999	-	60,999	56,569
Investment income		10,119	-	10,119	6,070
<b>Total income</b>		<b>534,658</b>	<b>715,752</b>	<b>1,250,410</b>	<b>1,398,963</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	8	489,977	-	489,977	358,206
Charitable activities	8	105,086	778,808	883,893	961,537
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>595,063</b>	<b>778,808</b>	<b>1,373,871</b>	<b>1,319,743</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(60,405)</b>	<b>(63,056)</b>	<b>(123,461)</b>	<b>79,220</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		506,516	63,056	569,572	490,352
Net movement in funds		(60,405)	(63,056)	(123,461)	79,220
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>446,111</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>446,111</b>	<b>569,572</b>

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued in the year.

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER:**

---

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

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	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	11	6,794	4,903
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	182,551	118,993
Cash at bank and in hand		483,897	611,451
		<u>666,448</u>	<u>730,444</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(227,131)	(165,775)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>439,317</u>	<u>564,669</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><u>446,111</u></u>	<u><u>569,572</u></u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted funds	14	-	63,056
Unrestricted funds	14	446,111	506,516
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>446,111</u></u>	<u><u>569,572</u></u>

An audit is required in accordance with section 151 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips**  
Chair

Date: 18 September 2025

The notes on pages 23 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER:**

---

**CHARITY BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

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	Note		2025 £	2024 £
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	12	178,699	79,369	
Cash at bank and in hand		372,620	384,098	
		<u>551,319</u>	<u>463,467</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(362,754)	(155,338)	
		<u>188,565</u>	<u>308,129</u>	
<b>Net assets</b>				
<b>Funds</b>				
Restricted funds	14	-	116,190	
Unrestricted funds:-				
General funds	14	188,565	191,939	
		<u>188,565</u>	<u>308,129</u>	
<b>Total funds</b>				

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the entity to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

However, an audit is required in accordance with section 151 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips**  
Chair

Date: 18 September 2025

The notes on pages 23 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	2	(123,534)	27,807
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of fixed assets		(4,019)	(2,182)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>		(4,019)	(2,182)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		(127,553)	25,625
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		611,450	585,825
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		483,897	611,450
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 23 to 40 form part of these financial statements

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 1. Accounting policies

##### 1.1 Basis of accounting

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of financial statements is as follows:

The financial statements have been prepared in GBP and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Writers and Scholars Educational Trust, a charity registered in England & Wales, meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

##### 1.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Group has recorded a loss in the year of £123,461 (2024: surplus £79,220) with overall funds in surplus by £446,111 (2024: £569,572). Forecast budgets and cash flows have been prepared for the period to 30 September 2026. These forecasts indicate that the group has sufficient cash to continue its operations for the foreseeable future. The trustees consider there to be no material uncertainties relating to going concern.

As a result of the above, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which the trustees consider to be appropriate.

##### 1.3 Basis of consolidation

The group financial statements consolidate those of the charity and its subsidiary company, Writers and Scholars International Limited ("the Company") drawn up to 31 March 2025. Surpluses or deficits on intra-group transactions are eliminated in full.

Results of the company which engages in activities similar to those of the charity are consolidated on a line-by-line basis in the SOFA and balance sheet.

##### 1.4 Fixed assets

Fixed assets are recorded at cost. Assets acquired with a value of less than £100 are not capitalised but are written off as revenue expenditure.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Fixtures and fittings	-	10% straight line
Computer equipment	-	25% straight line

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### 1.5 Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Income from grants and fees is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Where income is received in advance of its recognition it is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income being received the income is accrued.

##### 1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred, inclusive of VAT, which cannot be recovered.

All expenditure has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the following categories:

**Charitable Activities** – Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to achieving the charitable objectives of the charity, including the costs of disseminating information in support of charitable activities. These costs include staff costs, wholly or mainly attributable support costs and an apportionment of general overheads.

**Governance costs** – These comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to ensuring the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulations.

Staff costs are allocated by the trustees between direct charitable expenditure and support expenditure on the basis of time spent on these activities. Other costs are ascribed directly to the relevant heading.

##### 1.7 Pension costs

Writers & Scholars Educational Trust operates a defined contributions scheme for the benefit of the employees. The assets of the Scheme are held independently from those of Writers & Scholars Educational Trust in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represents the contributions payable during the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.8 Operating lease agreements**

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against profits on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

**1.9 Restricted funds**

Where grants are to be spent in accordance with terms agreed with the funders, the income and related expenditure are shown as 'Restricted'. Any unspent restricted income at the year-end is deferred for spending to future years.

**1.10 Unrestricted funds**

Core income and such other income for which there are no restrictions on the way it can be spent are termed 'Unrestricted'. Such unspent income at the year-end is termed 'Unrestricted funds'.

**1.11 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**1.12 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**1.13 Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

**1.14 Estimation uncertainty**

In the view of the trustees in applying the accounting policies adopted, no judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements nor do any estimates or assumptions made carry a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year.

**1.15 Financial instruments**

The Group only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

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WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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2. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £
Net income/(loss) for the period	(123,460)	79,220
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	2,128	1,320
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(63,558)	(66,702)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	61,356	13,969
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>123,534</b>	<b>27,807</b>

3. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £
Cash in hand	482,889	611,451

4. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	611,451	(127,552)	483,899

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**5. Donations & legacies**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations	142,834	-	142,834
Grants:			
Fritt Ord	20,968	-	20,968
Google	23,024	-	23,024
Meta	-	117,893	117,893
John Armitage Charitable Trust	50,000	-	50,000
Rausing Trust	75,000	-	75,000
Bequests	139	-	139
Other Grants	4,857	-	4,857
	<u>316,822</u>	<u>117,893</u>	<u>434,715</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	62,048	-	62,048
Grants:			
David & Elaine Potter Foundation	20,000	-	20,000
Fritt Ord	21,450	-	21,450
Google	30,000	-	30,000
Meta	-	70,000	70,000
Microsoft	7,712	-	7,712
John Armitage Charitable Trust	50,000	-	50,000
Bequests	9	-	9
OSF	233,210	-	233,210
Other Grants	107	-	107
	<u>424,536</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>494,536</u>

The donation from Meta of £117,893 (2024: £70,000) is restricted.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**6. Income from charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Liverpool John Moores University	11,050	-	11,050
OSF Euroasia	-	6,323	6,323
Arts Council England	50,000	-	50,000
JRCT	-	88,721	88,721
IRI	-	88,430	88,430
Publishing fees and royalties	85,668	-	85,668
Article 19	-	15,937	15,937
Open University	-	4,762	4,762
NED	-	393,686	393,686
	<u>146,718</u>	<u>597,859</u>	<u>744,577</u>
	<u>146,718</u>	<u>597,859</u>	<u>744,577</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Liverpool John Moores University	10,722	-	10,722
OSF Euroasia	-	34,808	34,808
Arts Council England	50,000	-	50,000
Joffe Foundation	-	32,982	32,982
Publishing fees and royalties	122,239	-	122,239
Justice for Journalists Foundation	-	18,532	18,532
OSF SLAPPs	-	47,167	47,167
NED	-	525,338	525,338
	<u>182,961</u>	<u>658,827</u>	<u>841,788</u>
	<u>182,961</u>	<u>658,827</u>	<u>841,788</u>

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WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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7. Income from other trading activities

Events income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Events	2,499	2,499
Sponsorship	58,500	58,500
	<u>60,999</u>	<u>60,999</u>

  

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Events	319	319
Sponsorship	56,250	56,250
	<u>56,569</u>	<u>56,569</u>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**8. Analysis of expenditure - 2025**

		Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Charitable activities					
Publications		114,188	241,933	356,121	233,236
Projects		691,552	49,306	740,858	741,184
		<u>805,740</u>	<u>291,239</u>	<u>1,096,979</u>	<u>974,420</u>
Raising funds	- donations and legacies	150,303	126,264	276,567	345,243
	- fundraising activities	323	-	323	80
TOTAL		<u>956,366</u>	<u>417,503</u>	<u>1,373,869</u>	<u>1,319,743</u>

**Analysis of expenditure - 2024**

		Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Charitable activities					
Publications		113,425	119,811	233,236	201,890
Projects		715,487	25,697	741,184	748,992
		<u>828,912</u>	<u>145,508</u>	<u>974,420</u>	<u>950,882</u>
Raising funds	- donations and legacies	115,901	229,342	345,243	325,764
	- fundraising activities	80	-	80	442
TOTAL		<u>944,893</u>	<u>374,850</u>	<u>1,319,743</u>	<u>1,277,088</u>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**8. Analysis of expenditure - 2025 (continued)****Support costs consist of:**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	339,351	271,019
Premises	22,358	22,141
Office and administration	21,732	28,100
Professional and consultancy	9,416	26,259
Currency exchange differences	251	766
Irrecoverable VAT	7,446	4,894
Depreciation	2,131	1,320
Governance (see note 9)	14,818	20,351
	<u>417,503</u>	<u>374,850</u>

**9. Governance costs**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	<u>14,818</u>	<u>20,351</u>

**10. Employees**

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2025 £	Charity 2024 £
Wages and salaries	437,076	415,506	366,411	349,361
Social security costs	35,479	33,813	34,705	28,139
Contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	9,294	9,282	8,367	8,576
	<u>481,849</u>	<u>458,601</u>	<u>409,483</u>	<u>386,076</u>

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 10. Employees (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	Group 2025 No.	Group 2024 No.
Charitable activities	11	10
Management and support	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11	10
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Staff benefits paid to key management personnel amounted to £253,522 (2024 - £248,595).

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2025 No.	Group 2024 No.
In the band over £60,000-£69,999	2	-
In the band £90,000-£99,999	-	1

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**11. Tangible fixed assets**

**Group**

	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	1,005	8,370	9,375
Additions	137	3,882	4,019
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,142</u>	<u>12,252</u>	<u>13,394</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	205	4,267	4,472
Charge for the year	118	2,010	2,128
At 31 March 2025	<u>323</u>	<u>6,277</u>	<u>6,600</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2025	<u>819</u>	<u>5,975</u>	<u>6,794</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>800</u>	<u>4,103</u>	<u>4,903</u>

**12. Debtors**

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2025 £	Charity 2024 £
<b>Due within one year</b>				
Trade debtors	1,260	36,000	1,260	-
Prepayments	896	2,397	312	298
Accrued income	177,127	79,071	177,127	79,071
Other debtors	3,268	1,525	-	-
	<u>182,551</u>	<u>118,993</u>	<u>178,699</u>	<u>79,369</u>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2025 £	Charity 2024 £
Trade creditors	-	55	-	-
Taxation and social security	10,338	9,927	10,338	9,927
Accruals and deferred income	215,315	154,315	130,502	83,200
Other creditors	1,478	1,478	-	-
Due to Writers and Scholars Int'l Ltd	-	-	221,914	62,211
	<u>227,131</u>	<u>165,775</u>	<u>362,754</u>	<u>155,338</u>
	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2025 £	Charity 2024 £
<b>Deferred Income</b>				
Brought forward	56,722	106,660	-	51,590
Released in the year	(56,722)	(106,660)	-	(51,590)
Deferred in the year	107,809	56,722	32,809	-
	<u>107,809</u>	<u>56,722</u>	<u>32,809</u>	<u>-</u>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**14. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General Funds	506,516	534,658	(595,063)	446,111
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Meta	(53,133)	117,893	(64,760)	-
National Endowment for Democracy	21,736	393,686	(415,422)	-
OSF EURASIA	25,273	6,323	(31,596)	-
OSF SLAPPS	17,666	-	(17,666)	-
JRCT	-	88,721	(88,721)	-
Article 19	-	15,937	(15,937)	-
IRI	-	88,430	(88,430)	-
Open University	-	4,762	(4,762)	-
Joffe Foundation	32,983	-	(32,983)	-
Justice for Journalists Foundation	18,531	-	(18,531)	-
	63,056	715,752	(778,808)	-
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>569,572</b>	<b>1,250,410</b>	<b>(1,373,871)</b>	<b>446,111</b>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**14. Statement of funds****Statement of funds – prior year**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General Funds	490,352	670,136	(653,972)	506,516
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Meta	-	70,000	(123,133)	(53,133)
National Endowment for Democracy	-	525,338	(503,602)	21,736
OSF EURASIA	-	34,808	(9,535)	25,273
OSF SLAPPS	-	47,167	(29,501)	17,666
Joffe Foundation	-	32,983	-	32,983
Justice for Journalists Foundation	-	18,531	-	18,531
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	728,827	(665,771)	63,056
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total of funds</b>	490,352	1,398,963	(1,319,743)	569,572
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**14. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Nature and purpose of each fund:**

**Meta**

End to End Encryption EU draft legislation analysis and advocacy

**National Endowment for Democracy**

Researching means of greater accessibility to digital expression where it is controlled.

**OSF EURASIA**

OSF Eurasia is monitoring freedom of expression in Eurasia

**OSF SLAPPS**

To promote our work to combat vexatious lawsuits that chill free speech

**Article 19**

Payment for Index staff member (Daisy Ruddock) secondment for 4 days a week as per secondment agreement

**IRI**

Russia project

**Open University**

Payment for short-term researcher

**Justice for Journalists Foundation**

Funding our SLAPPs work

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 15. Writers and Scholars International Limited

This is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and is a subsidiary of the charity. It outsources the publication of the magazine Index on Censorship, which is the main outlet through which the Trust fulfils its charitable objectives. All activities of the company have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the SOFA.

#### Transactions

During the year expenditure of £4,212 (2024: £nil) was recharged to Writers & Scholars International Limited by Writers & Scholars Educational Trust. At the balance sheet date the amount due from Writers & Scholars Educational Trust was £221,914 (2024: £62,211).

	2025	2024
	£	£
Turnover	342,441	336,392
Cost of Sales	(240,332)	(270,045)
Gross profit	102,109	66,347
Administrative Expenses	(106,005)	(49,420)
(Loss)/profit for the year	(3,896)	16,927
Retained earnings at the beginning of the year	261,443	244,518
(Loss)/profit for the year	(3,896)	16,927
<b>Retained earnings at the end of the year</b>	<b>257,547</b>	<b>261,443</b>

#### 16. Summary of funds

##### Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
General funds	506,516	534,658	(855,588)	185,586
Restricted funds	63,056	715,752	(518,282)	260,526
	<u>569,572</u>	<u>1,250,410</u>	<u>(1,373,870)</u>	<u>446,112</u>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**16. Summary of funds (continued)****Summary of funds - prior year**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditur e £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
General funds	490,352	670,136	(653,972)	506,516
Restricted funds	-	728,827	(665,771)	63,056
	<u>490,352</u>	<u>1,398,963</u>	<u>(1,319,743)</u>	<u>569,572</u>

**17. Related party transactions**

Kate Maltby, a trustee of the charity donated £6,500 to the charity in the year (2024: £11,800) and purchased half a table at the annual awards. Trevor Phillips, a trustee of the charity donated £3,250 to the charity in the year (2024: £3,000) and purchased a table at the annual awards. Andrew Franklin, a trustee of the charity donated £3,000 to the charity in the year (2024: £nil) and purchased a table at the annual awards. Ian Rosenblatt, a trustee of the charity purchased a table at the annual awards. Helen Mountfield KC, a trustee of the charity purchased a half table at the annual awards.

No other related parties have occurred in the year or prior year.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**18. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Fund 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	5	424,536	70,000	494,536
Charitable activities	6	182,961	658,827	841,788
Other trading activities	7	56,569	-	56,569
Investment income		6,070	-	6,070
<b>Total income</b>		<b>670,136</b>	<b>728,827</b>	<b>1,398,963</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds	8	358,206	-	358,206
Charitable activities	8	295,766	665,771	961,537
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>653,972</b>	<b>665,771</b>	<b>1,319,743</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>16,164</b>	<b>63,056</b>	<b>79,220</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward		490,352	-	490,352
Net movement in funds		16,164	63,056	79,220
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>506,516</b>	<b>63,056</b>	<b>569,572</b>

**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 325003

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# Accounts

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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The Trustees submit their annual report and the financial statements of the charity and group (consisting of Writers and Scholars Educational Trust and its subsidiary – Writers and scholars International Limited) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The Trustees have complied with statutory requirements and the requirements of the charity's Trust Deed, in preparing the financial statements.

Trustees' Report sections

- 1) About Index
- 2) Chair's Statement
- 3) Our Aims
- 4) 2023/24 Overview
- 5) Plans for 2024-25

#### ABOUT INDEX ON CENSORSHIP

Index on Censorship is a non-profit organisation, based in the UK. We campaign for, report on and defend freedom of expression worldwide. We believe everyone should be free to express themselves without fear of harm or persecution.

Our aim is to raise awareness about the value of free speech and highlight 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, as well as run campaigns protecting the right to freedom of expression both online and in real life.

Our ultimate goal is to be a voice for the persecuted and to expose the threats of totalitarian regimes and actions wherever they may be.

#### CHAIR'S STATEMENT

As we marked our fiftieth anniversary, there might have been some who hoped that we could look back and tell ourselves that the generations born since the launch of Index on Censorship have established their fundamental right to share their thoughts and emotions freely, irrespective of the nature of their societies – democratic, theocratic, rich or poor.

The explosion of social media should have offered the means to share our experiences, test our ideas and to imagine contesting versions of our future. In theory, the smartphone should outwit even the most authoritarian of regimes.

This is not how it is. At the extreme end of the spectrum of repression, war has brought with it the familiar silencing of difference, with conformity clothed as patriotic duty. Entire populations have had their voices stilled, supposedly in the interests of national unity. And the brutal intimidation of communities in states where the line between the governing and the gangster classes is increasingly blurred, has re-introduced a murderous new front in our work.

In short, the reordering of global power, reinforced by novel technologies has made the work of Index even more urgent than ever. Our magazine's coverage of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, China and Latin American for example, has charted the intensifying of injustices in the past year; sadly there are always too many stories to tell, and more landing on the page every day.

The shadow over freedom of expression isn't just falling on people in faraway countries of whom we hear little. The cancellation of speakers, the marginalisation of those with minority opinions, the pressure on authors to bend to fashionable norms, and the unspoken self-censorship of journalists are all subtly stifling the breadth of public debate in supposedly liberal democracies.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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This is why we at Index continue to be an advocate for those persecuted everywhere. But the courage of those individuals is not enough by itself to lift that shadow. It requires resources that allow people whose livelihoods are destroyed by repressive regimes to have the means to publish and broadcast. It needs partners that those in danger can count on to come to their aid in times of need. And it needs those who enjoy the greatest measure of freedom to be ready to amplify the voices of the persecuted. That continues to be the mission of Index.

We could not carry out that mission without the support of those who take freedom of expression as seriously as we do and who have helped us to become a stable and effective partner to many around the globe. We are grateful to our funders, in particular Sage, who distribute our magazine around the world; and to our staff, who make up in their expertise and enthusiasm, what we lack in resources.

I would also like to thank my fellow Trustee Sarah Sands who has completed her terms of office this year; and welcome Nick Timothy and Helen Mountfield KC who have joined us. I look forward to working with them, and all those who share our mission. It remains vital to people all over the globe.

Trevor Phillips

#### **OUR AIMS**

##### **Inform**

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 our magazine, website and social media, monitoring and reporting of freedom of expression violations, and events and media.

##### **Support**

Index supports censored writers, academics, artists and those facing censorship and threats to free expression. We achieve this through publishing the work of dissidents in our magazine and online, through legal support, and through our Freedom of Expression Awards.

##### **Influence**

Index uses the expertise and information gathered in its award-winning magazine, in its online reporting, and through research and monitoring projects to campaign for change on specific freedom of expression issues. We achieve this through media campaigns and by lobbying governments on different issues. We work with other organisations to strengthen the power of our advocacy.

##### **Debate**

Open debate is a central tenet of free expression and so Index actively promotes and leads discussion about the limits and concerns surrounding free expression, tackling subjects that are often ignored by mainstream media, that are the most challenging and contentious within society, and by taking discussions to different audiences.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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Overview of the year 2023/24

#### SLAPPs

Index remains a leading partner organisation in the EU, UK and the island of Ireland anti-SLAPP coalitions, campaigning against the use of vexatious lawsuits. We have continued to successfully secure funding in relation to our SLAPPs work, including from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

We were pivotal in the proposal of a bill in the UK to end SLAPPs but this bill was put on hold as a result of the general election. We are hoping for/working towards movement here under the new government. Even so, it shows how far we have come from identifying a problem to bringing about meaningful action to stop it.

#### Transnational repression

We have continued to develop our work investigating and highlighting transnational repression as a broader concept undermining freedom of speech in democratic countries and indeed had it as the theme of our spring 2024 magazine. The tactics used to repress dissent abroad are growing, especially against those critics of China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Rwanda. We have organised events to discuss transnational repression and have also written about it in both "Prospect" and "New Lines" in relation to China's long arm.

Spring 2024 also saw the 35th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre, for which we had a series of activities to commemorate the event, culminating in an art exhibition and panel speakers. 2024 was the first milestone anniversary of the Massacre that was not openly commemorated in Hong Kong. Thus we felt it was important to mark it abroad to make sure it is not forgotten. The Tiananmen Massacre continues to be one of the most censored issues by the CCP at home and abroad.

#### ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

##### INFORM

#### Magazine

Since its establishment in 1972, Index on Censorship magazine has published some of the greatest names in literature including Sir Salman Rushdie, Samuel Beckett, Nadine Gordimer, Mario Vargas Llosa, Hilary Mantel and Kurt Vonnegut. It also has published some of the greatest campaigning writers of our age from Vaclav Havel, Amartya Sen and Ariel Dorfman.

The magazine is available in more than 9,000 universities worldwide and had over a million article downloads in 2023/4.

Now that the pandemic is well and truly behind us over the last year we have been rebuilding relationships with bookstores to stock the magazine and refocusing our attention on in-person launch events.

#### Summer 2023 Issue

The summer issue on neurodiversity and free expression, stretched the team as the theme stretched beyond the more paradigmatic stories on censorship. We therefore consulted with a neurodiversity charity to ensure we didn't perpetuate any of the stereotypes we sought to address. This proved vital as the commissioning and editing process by definition also had to be more flexible

Martin Bright's investigation on UK government secrecy surrounding the Nazi occupation of Alderney was published in the summer edition. Follow-up articles in the "Observer" led to a new UK government inquiry and the story went global. Notably the story was picked up by Apple News which led to an unprecedented number of hits online (we believe in the range of 3 million). It is now forming the basis of a History Channel documentary.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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In July 2024 we were delighted to be notified that this 2023 issue had won the Apex Grand Award for excellence in publishing. This is a US-based awards body, which gives out awards to non-mainstream magazines and journals.

#### Autumn 2023 Issue

The autumn issue covered the rise in blasphemy charges around the world and featured contributions from Margaret Atwood and Juno Dawson. It was a bumper issue with a special contribution from Ariel Dorfman as the highlight of the culture section. The launch event centred on the Iran protests and blasphemy, one year on after they had taken place. Held in partnership with Saqi books, it was a full house at Hatchards in Piccadilly and included Ramita Navai on the panel.

As part of promotion for the magazine, we were interviewed by the BBC about the anniversary of the banning of "Madonna's Like a Prayer."

#### Winter 2023 Issue

The winter issue explored the role of comedy as the last bastion of dissent. Contributors included Rosie Holt and David Baddiel. The launch event was a comedy night in central London. Four comedians participated - Salman Malik, Rosie Holt, Sharon Wanjohi and Suchandrika Chakrabarti. The event being hosted by John Sweeney. It was a full-house and brought in a new, younger audience to Index. Just before the event, an article about the issue was published on "Byline Times."

Outside the special report this issue had contributions from Alhierd Bacharevic, the renowned Belarus writer, Paul Caruana Galizia, son of the murdered Maltese journalist, while Sasha Dovzhyk wrote movingly on libraries under attack in Ukraine. It was also the first issue published since 7th October and we published a piece from Samir El-Youssef addressing how Palestinian voices are silenced within Israel and inside Gaza (the latter by Hamas).

#### Spring 2024 Issue

The spring issue explored the increasing prevalence of transnational repression around the world, especially in the UK. Contributors included Nathan Law, Andrei Soldatov and Dessale Berekhet, as well as a special short story from Ukrainian author Victoria Amelina, who was killed last summer. Research from the magazine featured in an article in "Prospect."

The launch event was a talk at Exeter University with a brilliant panel. The magazine also went to Liverpool to deliver a talk to a full room of students about challenges to media freedom around the globe (and in the UK).

#### Online

We refreshed our website over the last 12 months. This involved an audit of bilateral organisations' websites and consultancy followed by implementation. It was not a relaunch as such – we still work within the existing Wordpress template. But it was enough to provide a new look and feel for the homepage and individual article pages. And it was enough to be a big undertaking. The end result is a more modern, dynamic site. The period while it was happening did see some upheaval – days when the site was not working as well – which has impacted our stats for the last 12 months (down on the year before). But we should now be well placed to get them up again.

Aside from the relaunch we continue to regularly publish in line with our aim of two to four new articles per week. This keeps our site fresh and ensures it is a destination for people to go to for information on the global free expression landscape. The names associated with our website are impressive – the president elect of Belarus has written for example – as well as engaging with less well-known dissidents and reporters who do not otherwise have outlets. One example here is Clemence Manyukwe, who reports to us from southern Africa on stories related to Zimbabwe, Eswatini and South Africa. The ethos is to have our website offer analysis and opinion on breaking news, while the magazine and reports dive more deeply.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### SUPPORT

##### **Commissioning writers and artists**

Index supports artists and writers by directly commissioning them and featuring their stories in the magazine. This might sound like a small form of support but oftentimes it's not – in places where writers are under attack it provides them with income and shows solidarity. We also shine a light on their experiences. We support visual artists under attack as well by featuring their work in our magazine, significantly on our front cover – something that is very prestigious and helps with their career.

##### **Giving a voice to political prisoners**

Index has always taken a leading role in campaigning for the release of political prisoners. The last year has very much been defined by the arrest and death sentence of Iranian rapper Toomaj Salehi, our 2023 Freedom of Expression Arts Award winner. We successfully led the campaign to get his death penalty overturned. We continue to call for his unconditional release.

We are very active in the campaign to free Hong Kong media mogul Jimmy Lai, speaking on panels about him and raising awareness of his plight online and in the magazine.

A key aspect of our work continues to be driven by events in central and eastern Europe. One of our former colleagues, Andrei Aliaksandrau, remains behind bars in Belarus for paying the fines of those protesting the contested election in August 2020. In October 2023, we marked his 1000th day in prison. We have supported political prisoners through our "Letters from Lukashenka's Prisoners" project, which seeks to give a voice to those facing persecution for their pursuit of human rights and democracy, which has now received a new funding stream.

Finally, we campaigned for the release of Evan Gershkovich and Vladimir Kara-Murza, efforts that bore fruit in July.

##### **Advising SLAPP targets**

We continue to support and advise those affected by legal harassment (SLAPPs) by connecting them with legal support, helping to coordinate trial monitoring for their cases, and preparing submissions to the court where relevant. In the case of journalists, we also file media freedom alerts to the Council of Europe Platform, through which states are informed of cases of legal harassment against the media.

We were pivotal in the proposal of a bill in the UK to end SLAPPs but this bill was put on hold as a result of the general election. We are hoping for/working towards movement here under the new government.

##### **Awards**

Our work to support individuals is complemented through our Freedom of Expression Awards, where we seek to support those who are targeted for defending free expression. Awards are offered in three categories: arts, campaigning 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. As part of the awards programme, the winners are given a financial grant and we seek to give them and their work more profile than they would otherwise have.

Our 2023 awards were very successful, including good media coverage, including in the Times. Through them we were able to establish close ties to Toomaj's family and lawyer, which was instrumental in our campaign to revoke the death sentence.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 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:

- 1) campaigning on behalf of individuals facing censorship
- 2) exposing new and emergent threats
- 3) providing contemporary analysis of comparable restrictions.

#### **Legal harassment (SLAPPs)**

A core element of Index's work is to analyse and expose the impact of legal harassment of journalists and other public watchdogs (SLAPPs) across Europe. This is dominating our media advocacy work as we lead efforts for changes in the legal framework which enable SLAPPs currently.

#### **Transnational repression**

Through a combination of diplomatic, cultural and economic levers repressive regimes are increasingly seeking to shape international discourse according to their own narrative. Many are not as aware as they should be about how prolific the various tactics are becoming and we intend to take a leading role here to highlight them and help those most impacted.

#### **Digital**

Our work this year expanded to include the impact of proposed European legislation and Indian legislation. Any such restrictive legislation that has a chilling effect on expression is usually pounced upon by other repressive regimes and implemented within their countries to achieve the same effect.

#### DEBATE

Index has made it one of our primary goals to reach new audiences. Annually Index staff take part in more than 50 public events, including book launches, panel discussions and performances of banned plays.

We host our own events, including launches of our four magazines a year which feature lively speakers and interesting discussions that connect to magazine content.

Some events we have taken part in this year include a SLAPPs conference in Glasgow (which we organised), being part of the British Book Awards for their Freedom to Publish Award, chairing a panel about journalism on China at the International Journalism Festival in Perugia and speaking at a Big Brother Watch event following the screening of the film "Mighty Ira."

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", "the Financial Times", "the Times", and "the Telegraph", on freedom of expression issues and are the go-to commentator on matters of freedom of expression.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### PLANS FOR 2024/25: A NOTE FROM OUR OUTGOING CEO

In May 2024 I left Index for pastures new. It has been a privilege to rebuild Index on Censorship, supported by an incredible Board of Trustees and a dedicated professional staff. All of our next steps will be driven by our new CEO Jemimah Steinfeld and I know that the organisation is in good hands.

Index now has solid foundations from which to build and I know that they will be leading the charge to provide a Voice for the Persecuted in the decades to come.

I want to thank Sir Trevor Phillips and the board for their support and occasionally for their indulgence. It's been a joy!

**Ruth Anderson**

#### AN INTRODUCTION FROM OUR NEW CEO - Jemimah Steinfeld

It's a privilege to be leading such an amazing organisation, one that I have been associated with for almost a decade now and one that continues to make me feel proud both in terms of the important work we do and how such a small team somehow manages to do it.

Taking over as CEO has of course meant the sad departure of Ruth. Happening as it did just as a UK election took place has also meant the departure of Cathy Parry and Ben Goldsborough (from Cathod Du). We have appointed two new people, who start in September - a new editor and a communications and events manager - in addition to taking on as contracted staff a development officer. The future team feels incredibly strong and I look forward to bringing them all together in the final quarter of 2024 to discuss further our outlook and strategy.

Sadly the world is not in a good place and the threats to free expression multiply with each passing day. Index has an essential role to play here in terms of fighting back. We are a respected legacy organisation, with an international outlook and a team of experts (both regionally and in terms of skill set – from journalists through to campaigners). These factors combined make Index formidable and we will lean into all of our best attributes to tackle these challenges through our central programmes and avenues.

In addition to the output of the magazine, website and social media, all of which respond to the most pressing issues globally, we will home in on certain areas. We will continue to campaign to end SLAPPs and to call for political prisoners to be released, especially but not exclusively those in Belarus. We will take a more leading role on transnational repression in Europe/the UK, seeking funding as part of that. Transnational repression manifests in many ways and we will highlight this, while pinpointing a few key areas we can have greatest impact. Thanks to a grant from Meta, we will continue our work campaigning for end-to-end encryption to be protected, and we will be leading research into Modi's attack on digital rights in India.

We have also monitored closely the fall-out in terms of free expression from the Israel-Gaza war, both within the region and outside of it. We will continue to monitor and report on this situation. We have growing concerns that it is impacting the cultural sphere in the UK too, having spoken to curators and others who have expressed fear about programming involving Jewish and/or Muslim themes and will look into this in more detail both to raise awareness and to consult/help other organisations navigate this challenging space.

Finally, we will shortly publish original research on book banning in the UK and will reprise our central role in campaigning against book banning globally and in the UK, as part of Banned Books Week.

The challenges might be many but I am excited to lead this remarkable organisation through its next chapter.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### FUNDING

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 of the following during the year:

Arden Strategies  
Arts Council England  
Edwardian Hotels  
89 Up Ltd  
The Elaine and David Potter Foundation  
Fritt Ord  
Google  
Hollick Family Foundation  
Joffe Foundation  
Justice For Journalists Foundation  
Liverpool John Moores University  
Kate Maltby  
Meta  
Microsoft  
New Philanthropy Capital  
Oak Foundation  
Open Society Foundation  
Penguin Random House  
Profile Books  
Sage Publications  
The Times & Sunday Times

and various individuals who have supported the organisation through individual donations or through subscription to the magazine.

The charity is a member of the Fundraising Regulator and has not received any complaints about our practices. It does not employ third-party fundraising agencies, nor does it directly court the general public.

#### **Fundraising**

The financial year 2023-24 saw total income have a modest drop from £1,398,963 compared with the previous year's £1,591,114, mainly accounted for by less project funding. We received continued core funding from The Armitage Foundation (New Philanthropy Capital), OSF, Fritt Ord, the David and Elaine Potter Foundation and Arts Council England and Wales. We held our third post-pandemic annual Freedom of Expression Awards fundraising evening, which saw a small increase in sponsorship to £56,250 from £54,000 the previous year.

The charity's income was down £20,000 from £1,082,850 in 2023-24 to £1,062,572. We received three different grants relating to our SLAPPs work within the year, from Justice For Journalists Foundation, OSF and the Joffe Charitable Trust. Our individual giving rose from £39,788 to £62,048, reflecting a particularly successful one on the night giving at our Annual Awards. The company's income fell from £517,994 to £336,392, largely due to reduced grants for our project work compared with the previous year.

At the date of these accounts, much of the above core funding has been renewed, although funding from the David and Elaine Potter Foundation has now come to an end. We would like to thank them for their support over several years.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Financial Report and going concern

The Trustees are delighted to report that for the third year in a row, we have returned a healthy surplus and continue to bolster our reserves, albeit more moderately this year, of the order of £79,220. This leaves a consolidated free reserves position of £506,516. The amount of restricted reserves is £63,056, making a total reserves position of £569,572.

The charity made a surplus of £62,294. Its reserves level now sits at £308,129, of which £116,190 are restricted reserves, while free reserves sit at £191,939. The Company made a profit of £16,636, giving a total of free reserves of £261,443, all of which is unrestricted.

On turnover, we showed a decrease of £192,151 on the previous year. This was due to reduced project funding, since some of the project work was carried over from previous year's grants, as reflected in expenditure rising by £52,655 on the previous year. The Company had a sharp drop in turnover on previous year, from £517,914 to £336,392, due to the reduced project funding as above. Its expenditure however, was down slightly, from £282,600 to £270,045. The Charity's expenditure totalled £1,049,698, as compared with £1,073,200, representing a slight decrease of £23,502.

Of the £974,420 of charitable activity costs, publishing costs rose by £31,346, while project costs fell £7,808, thus producing a modest overall increase of £23,538. Fundraising costs rose by £20,000 on the previous year, reflecting increased salary support costs. Overall, salary costs came in at £271,019, compared to £238,176 the previous year, after there were across-the-board pay rises and benchmarked salary increases for certain staff. Premises costs rose by £8,173 largely due to higher insurance premiums cost, reflecting the decreased appetite for risk across the whole insurance industry. Total overheads therefore were up by £11,331 on the previous year. Accountancy costs, which constitutes all of our governance spend, rose by £1,650. On financial variance, there were no significant overspends on budget. Computer and software costs were £1,300 over budget, due to older machines having to be replaced necessitating set-up and software purchases accordingly. Travel was £1,200 over budget, though going ahead this may be reduced with a London-based CEO. Overall, variance analysis showed that we came in 9.3% under budget.

Cashflow projections remains healthy for the upcoming year, though we do forecast a far tougher fundraising landscape this year. With our increased reserves position, we have opened a second investment account in order to spread the financial risk, with Financial Compensation Services legislation limiting the maximum threshold to £85,000 per financial entity (not per account held with any entity)..

#### Reserves policy

The reserves policy has been established by the Index board, with the desired level of reserves being based on a consideration of at-risk funding. The board feel this represents the most significant and measurable way of arriving at a reserves target. The target carried forward from last year was £135,000 of unrestricted funds, which equated to three months operating costs at then level (£41,000 per month). The trustees are pleased to report that this target has been exceeded, with a free reserves position at the end of the year of £506,516.

The level of unrestricted funds is £506,516

The level of restricted funds is £ 63,056.

There are no designated or endowment funds in the current and prior period.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees ensure that this purpose is carried out by the performance of services valued by the public both in the UK and internationally.

Both forms of editorial content (online and print) offer the highest quality of commissioned journalism and analysis, providing viewpoints from all parts of the spectrum of any free expression debate. Our expert editorial filter of censorship issues can be used to help those interested in free expression, find contextualised and verified information in support of free speech. We augment the news, picking the most important and most interesting free expression stories and pushing them out to a wider audience. The interest shown by the public in several of the current debates around free expression throughout all media has been particularly well served by the charity. Index has been at the forefront of many such debates, able to deliver them in accessible form, through editorial content and events showcasing key figures from relevant fields and disciplines. In the past year we have ensured that public events are not just restricted to London, but have been held in Glasgow, Dublin, Exeter, Oxford and Liverpool. At the same time we have extended geographical access to our debates through podcasting and video recordings available through our website and social media digital platforms. These reflect two of our objectives to inform and to encourage debate. We also conduct some of our events online which are geographically open to audiences worldwide, to augment in-person events which realistically are limited to local audiences.

The research and articles published in Index on Censorship magazine are of direct relevance to specialist professionals in law, media and academia, but they also serve to deepen the knowledge and advance learning of the broader public, in the understanding and analysis of human rights. Some of the themes we have examined and commented on in what is a rapidly evolving free expression landscape, include AI, fake news, the right to protest, transnational repression and the influence of soft power. Without knowledge in these spheres, the public may be unable to make the informed decisions that are crucial for full participation in a free society. Extracts from the magazine continue to be offered for free on our website, while the entire archive from years previous to the current one is available for free online. Increasing social media followers and web viewing figures attest to the widening of our audience. We have continued to support media practitioners with our guidelines for operating in difficult media environments, be it under repressive regimes, or individuals and corporations who seek to 'chill' free speech.

Index continues to bring material to under-represented communities in the freedom of expression debate, and particularly expanding its reach towards greater numbers of young people and people involved in education. As part of this initiative, we work closely with several UK and international universities and offer several research roles for graduates and post-graduate.

In order to pursue our work in accordance with our mission and public benefit statements, we have a legitimate interest in holding and processing the data of both individuals and organisations.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Governance and Management

##### Trustee Board

Trustees serve for a period of five years. Existing Trustees select members of the Trustee Board. Currently recruitment has occurred through personal recommendation and word of mouth. Rules and guidelines published by the Charity Commission on the responsibilities of being a Trustee are provided to all new Trustees. In addition, new Trustees are inducted in the charity by the Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees and ongoing Training is offered to existing ones.

Every effort is made to ensure that all specialist areas of the Charity's operation are represented. Candidates that strengthen the Board are always considered, with no upper limit on the number of Trustees. Trustees meet four times a year to review strategy, risk and performance and to approve the operating plans and budgets. The majority of Trustee meetings take place at spaces provided by one of the Trustees since the organisation no longer has premises of its own.

Responsibility for strategy, planning and the day-to-day management of operations is delegated to a management team led by the Chief Executive. Formal reporting by the Chief Executive takes place in writing a week prior to each Trustee meeting. The key issues arising from this report and any other matters are then discussed in detail at the Trustee meeting. Minutes are then circulated, within seven days, for approval at the subsequent Trustee meeting. In addition, the Treasurer meets monthly with the Head of Finance and quarterly the Chief Executive joins these meetings. The Treasurer acts as a check on financial best practice and oversees financial matters, where segregation of duties are not possible due to the relative small size of the staff.

The pay of the senior management team ('key management personnel') and all staff are regularly reviewed and where there are increases these are in line with average earnings and any cost-of-living adjustment. In view of the nature of the charity, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other charities. The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles in equivalent sized charities.

##### Risk Review

With a full risk register in place, throughout the year the Trustees consider the top five or ten risks anticipated or actually faced in the year, in terms of likelihood, impact, mitigations and responsibility. These are then added to the risk register as an update. The Trustees are satisfied that systems have been developed and are in place to mitigate identified risks to a satisfactory level. The last risk review was carried out by the Trustees in March 2024.

The issues considered were as follows:

- 1) **Digital Security:** In light of the changing digital security environment Index has undergone a full digital security review, streamlined procedures and implemented a single minimum baseline for all staff. We have also reviewed all digital platforms and migrated work onto more secure platforms.
- 2) **Libel:** Last year's process of renewing our libel protection insurance saw a rigorous examination by our insurers of our processes to minimise the possibilities of being prosecuted for libel and satisfying their requirements. Thus, in their eyes, our internal systems were adjudged to be robust. We have launched new protocols for both the editorial and policy teams to minimise risk. However the nature of our work means this requires constant monitoring.
- 3) **Staff Turnover:** We have known for a considerable period that the CEO was leaving in the summer of 2024 and moved in good time to establish the recruitment process. We have proactively enhanced staff terms and conditions to facilitate wider staff retention and the Board have managed a smooth transition between CEOs to minimise staff turnover.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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- 4) **Fundraising:** After two successful years of building up reserves, the current financial year has been steady if unspectacular. We have come to the end of funding cycles with several funders and philanthropic giving is more challenging. The 2025-26 budget has a shortfall of £54,000 which becomes the fundraising target for the new CEO, but the organisation is in the position of having the buttress of reserves to cover any shortfall. However, they will still be tasked with unlocking new sources of funding.
- 5) **Overseas Travel:** While no staff member has undertaken travel to difficult regions around the globe, other people closely connected to the organisation did. Best practice advice was given and in light of these discussions, our travel policy, which was written pre pandemic, has been refreshed and the policy added to the staff handbook, which itself was updated in the current year and will be circulated to all staff on completion.

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and its financial activities for the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ascertain the financial position of the Charity and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware. They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**POWERS AND RESTRICTIONS**

The Trustees have absolute discretion to decide which of the Trust's purposes to forward, and no limitations on the means they adopt to do so. In particular, they have complete discretion to invest money as they wish and are therefore not bound by the provisions of the Trustee Investment Act.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips**  
Chair

Date: 19 September 2024

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### STATUS

The Writers and Scholars Educational Trust is a registered charity, number 325003, constituted by the Trust Deed dated 25 March 1971. In June 2016 the charity was converted into the status of a corporate trustee, WSET Trustee Ltd, company registered number 10188386. The Trustees of WSET resigned on 23 June and were immediately appointed as Directors of the corporate trustee WSET Trustee Ltd.

The directors of WSET Trustee Ltd are:

Trevor Phillips (Chair)  
Kate Maltby  
James Goode (Treasurer)  
Andrew Franklin  
Nick Timothy (appointed 12/07/2023)  
Helen Mountfield KC (appointed 12/07/2023)  
Ian Rosenblatt (appointed 13/05/2024)

#### Management

Ruth Smeeth – Chief Executive (left 31/07/2024)  
Jemimah Steinfeld – Chief Executive  
David Sewell – Finance Director

#### Charity registered number

325003

#### Registered office

86-90 Paul Street  
London  
EC2A 4NE

#### Independent auditors

Haysmacintyre LLP  
10 Queen Street Place  
London  
EC4R 1AG

#### Bankers

Triodos Bank NV  
Deanery Road  
Bristol  
BS1 5A

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Writers and Scholars Educational Trust (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Charity Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

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#### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the parent charitable company has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

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#### **Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations is related to regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in certain accounting estimates and judgements such as the income recognition policy. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with appropriate regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Review of minutes of meetings to identify instances of fraud;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS AND SCHOLARS  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Haysmacintyre LLP*

**Steve Harper (on behalf of)**  
**Haysmacintyre LLP**  
Statutory Auditors  
10 Queen Street Place  
London  
EC4R 1AG

25 September 2024

Haysmacintyre LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	5	424,536	70,000	494,536	559,306
Charitable activities	6	182,961	658,827	841,788	975,529
Other trading activities	7	56,569	-	56,569	54,400
Investment income		6,070	-	6,070	1,879
<b>Total income</b>		<u>670,136</u>	<u>728,827</u>	<u>1,398,963</u>	<u>1,591,114</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	8	358,206	-	358,206	326,206
Charitable activities	8	295,766	665,771	961,537	940,882
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>653,972</u>	<u>665,771</u>	<u>1,319,743</u>	<u>1,267,088</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>16,164</u>	<u>63,056</u>	<u>79,220</u>	<u>324,026</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		490,352	-	490,352	166,326
Net movement in funds		16,164	63,056	79,220	324,026
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>506,516</u>	<u>63,056</u>	<u>569,572</u>	<u>490,352</u>

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued in the year.

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER:**

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**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

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	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	11	4,903	4,042
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	118,993	52,291
Cash at bank and in hand		611,451	585,825
		<u>730,444</u>	<u>638,116</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(165,775)	(151,806)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>564,669</u>	<u>486,310</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><u>569,572</u></u>	<u><u>490,352</u></u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted funds	14	63,056	-
Unrestricted funds	14	506,516	490,352
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>569,572</u></u>	<u><u>490,352</u></u>

An audit is required in accordance with section 151 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips**  
Chair

Date: 19 September 2024

The notes on pages 23 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER:**

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**CHARITY BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

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	Note		2024 £	2023 £
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	12	79,369	162,758	
Cash at bank and in hand		384,098	163,074	
		<u>463,467</u>	<u>325,832</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(155,338)	(79,997)	
<b>Net assets</b>		<u></u>	<u>308,129</u>	<u>245,835</u>
<b>Funds</b>				
Restricted funds	14	116,190	-	
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	14	191,939	245,835	
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>308,129</u>	<u>245,835</u>

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the entity to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

However, an audit is required in accordance with section 151 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips**  
Chair

Date: 19 September 2024

The notes on pages 23 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash provided by operating activities	27,807	297,397
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of fixed assets	(2,182)	(3,875)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>	(2,182)	(3,875)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	25,625	293,522
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	585,825	292,303
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<u>611,450</u>	<u>585,825</u>

The notes on pages 23 to 40 form part of these financial statements

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1. Accounting policies

##### 1.1 Basis of accounting

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of financial statements is as follows:

The financial statements have been prepared in GBP and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Writers and Scholars Educational Trust, a charity registered in England & Wales, meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

##### 1.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Group has recorded a surplus in the year of £79,220 (2023: £324,026) with overall funds in surplus by £569,572 (2023: £490,352). Forecast budgets and cash flows have been prepared for the period to 30 September 2024. These forecasts indicate that the group has sufficient cash to continue its operations for the foreseeable future. The trustees consider there to be no material uncertainties relating to going concern.

As a result of the above, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which the trustees consider to be appropriate.

##### 1.3 Basis of consolidation

The group financial statements consolidate those of the charity and its subsidiary company, Writers and Scholars International Limited ("the Company") drawn up to 31 March 2024. Surpluses or deficits on intra-group transactions are eliminated in full.

Results of the company which engages in activities similar to those of the charity are consolidated on a line-by-line basis in the SOFA and balance sheet.

##### 1.4 Fixed assets

Fixed assets are recorded at cost. Assets acquired with a value of less than £100 are not capitalised but are written off as revenue expenditure.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Fixtures and fittings	-	10% straight line
Computer equipment	-	25% straight line

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### 1.5 Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Income from grants and fees is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Where income is received in advance of its recognition it is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income being received the income is accrued.

##### 1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred, inclusive of VAT, which cannot be recovered.

All expenditure has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the following categories:

**Charitable Activities** – Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to achieving the charitable objectives of the charity, including the costs of disseminating information in support of charitable activities. These costs include staff costs, wholly or mainly attributable support costs and an apportionment of general overheads.

**Governance costs** – These comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to ensuring the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulations.

Staff costs are allocated by the trustees between direct charitable expenditure and support expenditure on the basis of time spent on these activities. Other costs are ascribed directly to the relevant heading.

##### 1.7 Pension costs

Writers & Scholars Educational Trust operates a defined contributions scheme for the benefit of the employees. The assets of the Scheme are held independently from those of Writers & Scholars Educational Trust in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represents the contributions payable during the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.8 Operating lease agreements**

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against profits on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

**1.9 Restricted funds**

Where grants are to be spent in accordance with terms agreed with the funders, the income and related expenditure are shown as 'Restricted'. Any unspent restricted income at the year-end is deferred for spending to future years.

**1.10 Unrestricted funds**

Core income and such other income for which there are no restrictions on the way it can be spent are termed 'Unrestricted'. Such unspent income at the year-end is termed 'Unrestricted funds'.

**1.11 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**1.12 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**1.13 Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

**1.14 Estimation uncertainty**

In the view of the trustees in applying the accounting policies adopted, no judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements nor do any estimates or assumptions made carry a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year.

**1.15 Financial instruments**

The Group only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

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WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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2. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	79,220	324,026
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	1,320	890
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(66,702)	6,979
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	13,969	(34,498)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>27,807</b>	<b>297,397</b>

3. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £
Cash in hand	611,450	585,825

4. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	585,825	25,626	611,451

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**5. Donations & legacies**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations	62,048	-	62,048
Grants:			
David & Elaine Potter Foundation	20,000	-	20,000
Fritt Ord	21,450	-	21,450
Google	30,000	-	30,000
Meta	-	70,000	70,000
Microsoft	7,712	-	7,712
John Armitage Charitable Trust	50,000	-	50,000
Bequests	9	-	9
OSF	233,210	-	233,210
Other Grants	107	-	107
	<u>424,536</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>494,536</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations	39,788	-	39,788
Fritt Ord	25,106	-	25,106
Google	20,000	-	20,000
Meta	-	265,000	265,000
Microsoft	8,039	-	8,039
John Armitage Charitable Trust	50,000	-	50,000
Future Russia Fund	-	40,000	40,000
OSF	109,930	-	109,930
Other Grants	1,443	-	1,443
	<u>254,306</u>	<u>305,000</u>	<u>559,306</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>

The donation from Meta of £70,000 (2023: £265,000), and Future Russia Fund of £nil (2023: £40,000) are restricted.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**6. Income from charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Liverpool John Moores University	10,722	-	10,722
OSF Euroasia	-	34,808	34,808
Arts Council England	50,000	-	50,000
Joffe Foundation	-	32,982	32,982
Publishing fees and royalties	122,239	-	122,239
Justice for Journalists Foundation	-	18,532	18,532
OSF SLAPPs	-	47,167	47,167
NED	-	525,338	525,338
	<u>182,961</u>	<u>658,827</u>	<u>841,788</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Liverpool John Moores University	10,884	-	10,884
National Endowment for Democracy	-	346,293	346,293
Arts Council England	43,915	-	43,915
Joffe Foundation	-	29,984	29,984
OSF	-	80,064	80,064
Oak	-	220,575	220,575
Publishing fees and royalties	118,881	-	118,881
Justice for Journalists Foundation	8,073	-	8,073
OSF	-	47,167	47,167
NED	-	69,446	69,446
FPC	247	-	247
	<u>182,000</u>	<u>793,529</u>	<u>975,529</u>

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WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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7. Income from other trading activities

Events income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Events	319	319
Sponsorship	56,250	56,250
	<u>56,569</u>	<u>56,569</u>

  

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Events	400	400
Sponsorship	54,000	54,000
	<u>54,400</u>	<u>54,400</u>

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 8. Analysis of expenditure - 2024

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Publications	113,425	119,811	233,236	201,890
Projects	<u>715,487</u>	<u>25,697</u>	<u>741,184</u>	<u>748,992</u>
	<u>828,912</u>	<u>145,508</u>	<u>974,420</u>	<u>950,882</u>
Raising funds				
- donations and legacies	115,901	229,342	345,243	325,764
- fundraising activities	<u>80</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>442</u>
TOTAL	<u>944,893</u>	<u>374,850</u>	<u>1,319,743</u>	<u>1,277,088</u>

#### Analysis of expenditure - 2023

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Charitable activities			
Publications	110,887	91,003	201,890
Projects	<u>726,418</u>	<u>22,574</u>	<u>748,992</u>
	<u>837,305</u>	<u>113,577</u>	<u>950,882</u>
Raising funds			
- donations and legacies	117,265	208,499	325,764
- fundraising activities	<u>442</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>442</u>
	<u>955,012</u>	<u>322,076</u>	<u>1,277,088</u>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**8. Analysis of expenditure - 2024 (continued)**

**Support costs consist of:**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs	271,019	238,176
Premises	22,141	13,968
Office and administration	28,100	24,942
Professional and consultancy	26,259	22,580
Currency exchange differences	766	(1,573)
Irrecoverable VAT	4,894	4,392
Depreciation	1,320	890
Governance (see note 9)	<u>20,351</u>	<u>18,701</u>
	<u><u>374,850</u></u>	<u><u>322,076</u></u>

**9. Governance costs**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	<u>20,351</u>	<u>18,701</u>

**10. Employees**

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Charity 2024 £	Charity 2023 £
Wages and salaries	415,506	373,824	349,361	316,585
Social security costs	33,813	36,030	28,139	30,688
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	9,282	8,412	8,576	7,708
	<u>458,601</u>	<u>418,266</u>	<u>386,076</u>	<u>354,981</u>

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 10. Employees (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	Group 2024 No.	Group 2023 No.
Charitable activities	10	13
Management and support	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10	14
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Staff benefits paid to key management personnel amounted to £248,595 (2023 - £151,273).

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2024 No.	Group 2023 No.
In the band £90,000 - £99,999	1	1

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**11. Tangible fixed assets**

**Group**

	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	1,005	6,188	7,193
Additions	-	2,182	2,182
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,005</u>	<u>8,370</u>	<u>9,375</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	97	3,054	3,151
Charge for the year	108	1,213	1,321
At 31 March 2024	<u>205</u>	<u>4,267</u>	<u>4,472</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2024	<u>800</u>	<u>4,103</u>	<u>4,903</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>908</u>	<u>3,134</u>	<u>4,042</u>

**12. Debtors**

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Charity 2024 £	Charity 2023 £
<b>Due within one year</b>				
Trade debtors	36,000	20,247	-	247
Prepayments	2,397	18,260	298	17,985
Accrued income	79,071	-	79,071	-
Other debtors	1,525	13,784	-	-
Due from Writers and Scholars Int'l Ltd	-	-	-	144,526
	<u>118,993</u>	<u>52,291</u>	<u>79,369</u>	<u>162,758</u>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Charity 2024 £	Charity 2023 £
Trade creditors	55	51	-	-
Taxation and social security	9,927	10,020	9,927	10,020
Accruals and deferred income	154,315	141,205	83,200	69,977
Other creditors	1,478	530	-	-
Due to Writers and Scholars Int'l Ltd	-	-	62,211	-
	<u>165,775</u>	<u>151,806</u>	<u>155,338</u>	<u>79,997</u>
	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Charity 2024 £	Charity 2023 £
<b>Deferred Income</b>				
Brought forward	106,660	145,738	51,590	52,272
Released in the year	(106,660)	(145,738)	(51,590)	(52,272)
Deferred in the year	56,722	106,660	-	51,590
	<u>56,722</u>	<u>106,660</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,590</u>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**14. Statement of funds****Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General Funds	490,352	670,136	(653,972)	506,516
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Meta	-	70,000	(123,133)	(53,133)
National Endowment for Democracy	-	525,338	(503,602)	21,736
OSF EURASIA	-	34,808	(9,535)	25,273
OSF SLAPPS	-	47,167	(29,501)	17,666
Joffe Foundation	-	32,983	-	32,983
Justice for Journalists Foundation	-	18,531	-	18,531
	-	728,827	(665,771)	63,056
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>490,352</b>	<b>1,398,963</b>	<b>(1,319,743)</b>	<b>569,572</b>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**14. Statement of funds (continued)****Statement of funds - prior year**

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General Funds	166,326	1,591,114	(1,267,088)	490,352
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Meta	-	265,000	(265,000)	-
Future Russia Fund	-	40,000	(40,000)	-
National Endowment for Democracy	-	346,293	(346,293)	-
Joffe Foundation	-	29,984	(29,984)	-
OSF	-	80,064	(80,064)	-
Oak	-	220,575	(220,575)	-
OSF SLAPPS	-	47,167	(47,167)	-
National Endowment for Democracy	-	69,446	(69,446)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	1,098,529	(1,098,529)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u>166,326</u>	<u>2,689,643</u>	<u>(2,365,617)</u>	<u>490,352</u>

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**14. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Nature and purpose of each fund:**

**Meta**

End to End Encryption EU draft legislation analysis and advocacy

**National Endowment for Democracy**

Researching means of greater accessibility to digital expression where it is controlled.

**OSF**

OSF is core grant

**OSF EURASIA**

OSF Eurasia is monitoring freedom of expression in Eurasia

**OSF SLAPPS**

To promote our work to combat vexatious lawsuits that chill free speech

**Joffe Foundation**

To promote our work to combat vexatious lawsuits that chill free speech

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 15. Writers and Scholars International Limited

This is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and is a subsidiary of the charity. It outsources the publication of the magazine Index on Censorship, which is the main outlet through which the Trust fulfils its charitable objectives. All activities of the company have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the SOFA.

#### Transactions

During the year expenditure of £nil (2023: £7,912) was recharged to Writers & Scholars International Limited by Writers & Scholars Educational Trust. At the balance sheet date the amount due from Writers & Scholars Educational Trust was £62,211 (2023: £144,526 due to).

	2024	2023
	£	£
Turnover	336,392	517,994
Cost of Sales	<u>(270,045)</u>	<u>(282,600)</u>
Gross profit	66,347	235,394
Administrative Expenses	(49,420)	(40,680)
Operating profit	<u>16,927</u>	<u>194,714</u>
Profit after tax	<u>16,927</u>	<u>194,714</u>
Retained earnings at the beginning of the year	244,516	49,802
Profit for the year	<u>16,927</u>	<u>194,714</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the year	<u>261,443</u>	<u>244,516</u>

#### 16. Summary of funds

##### Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
General funds	490,352	670,136	(653,972)	506,516
Restricted funds	-	728,827	(665,771)	63,056
	<u>490,352</u>	<u>1,398,963</u>	<u>(1,319,743)</u>	<u>569,572</u>

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## WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 16. Summary of funds (continued)

##### Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
General funds	166,326	1,591,114	(1,267,088)	490,352
Restricted funds	-	1,098,529	(1,098,529)	-
	<u>166,326</u>	<u>2,689,643</u>	<u>(2,365,617)</u>	<u>490,352</u>

#### 17. Related party transactions

Kate Maltby, a trustee of the charity donated £11,800 to the charity in the year (2023: £1,000). Trevor Phillips, a trustee of the charity donated £3,000 to the charity in the year (2023: £3,000). Trevor Philips purchased attendance for the Awards for £3,000 via 1 Cent Magenta Communications Ltd. Anthony Barling, a director of the Company but not a Trustee of charity donated £1,000 (2023: £nil) in the year.

During the year expenditure of £nil (2023: £7,912) was recharged to Writers & Scholars International Limited by Writers & Scholars Educational Trust. At the balance sheet date the amount due from Writers & Scholars Educational Trust was £62,211 (2023: £144,526 due to).

No other related parties have occurred in the year or prior year.

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**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**18. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities 2023**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>			
<b>Donations &amp; legacies</b>	254,306	305,000	559,306
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Publishing fees & royalties	118,881	-	118,881
Other income from charitable activities	63,119	793,529	856,648
<b>Other trading activities</b>			
Events income	54,400	-	54,400
<b>Investments Income</b>	1,879	-	1,879
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>492,585</u>	<u>1,098,529</u>	<u>1,591,114</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>			
<b>Raising funds</b>			
Donations and legacies	20,764	305,000	325,764
Fundraising activities	442	-	442
<b>Charitable activities</b>	147,353	793,529	940,882
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>168,559</u>	<u>1,098,529</u>	<u>1,287,088</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	324,026	-	324,026
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	166,326	-	166,326
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>490,352</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>490,352</u></u>

**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 325003

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# Accounts

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**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**Charity Number: 325003**

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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# **WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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The Trustees submit their annual report and the financial statements of the charity and group (consisting of Writers and Scholars Educational Trust and its subsidiary – Writers and scholars International Limited) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The Trustees have complied with statutory requirements and the requirements of the charity's Trust Deed, in preparing the financial statements

#### **ABOUT INDEX ON CENSORSHIP**

Index on Censorship is a non-profit organization, based in the UK, but with a global remit. We campaign for, and defend freedom, of expression worldwide. We believe everyone should be free to express themselves without fear of harm or persecution.

Our aim is to raise awareness about the value of free speech and highlight 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, as well as run campaigns protecting the right to freedom of expression both online and in real life.

Our ultimate goal is to be a voice for the persecuted and to expose the threats of totalitarian regimes and actions wherever they may be.

#### **CHAIR'S STATEMENT**

As we marked our fiftieth anniversary, there might have been some who hoped that we could look back and tell ourselves that the generations born since the launch of Index on Censorship have established their fundamental right to share their thoughts and emotions freely, irrespective of the nature of their societies – democratic, theocratic, rich or poor.

The explosion of social media should have offered the means to share our experiences, test our ideas and to imagine contesting versions of our future. In theory, the smartphone should outwit even the most authoritarian of regimes.

This is not how it is. At the extreme end of the spectrum of repression, war has brought with it the familiar silencing of difference, with conformity clothed as patriotic duty. Entire populations have had their voices stilled, supposedly in the interests of national unity. And the brutal intimidation of communities in states where the line between the governing and the gangster classes is increasingly blurred, has re-introduced a murderous new front in our work.

In short, the reordering of global power, reinforced by novel technologies has made the work of Index even more urgent than ever. Our magazine's coverage of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, China and Latin American for example, has charted the intensifying of injustices in the past year; sadly there are always too many stories to tell, and more landing on the page every day.

The shadow over freedom of expression isn't just falling on people in faraway countries of whom we hear little. The cancellation of speakers, the marginalisation of those with minority opinions, the pressure on authors to bend to fashionable norms, and the unspoken self-censorship of journalists are all subtly stifling the breadth of public debate in supposedly liberal democracies.

This is why we at Index continue to be an advocate for those persecuted everywhere. But the courage of those individuals is not enough by itself to lift that shadow. It requires resources that allow people whose livelihoods are destroyed by repressive regimes to have the means to publish and broadcast. It needs partners that those in danger can count on to come to their aid in times of need. And it needs those who enjoy the greatest measure of freedom to be ready to amplify the voices of the persecuted. That continues to be the mission of Index.

We could not carry out that mission without the support of those who take freedom of expression as seriously as we do and who have helped us to become a stable and effective partner to many around the world. We are grateful to our funders, in particular Sage, who distribute our magazine around the world; and to our staff, who make up in their expertise and enthusiasm, what we lack in resources.

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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I would also like to thank my fellow Trustee Sarah Sands who has completed her terms of office this year; and welcome Nick Timothy and Helen Mountfield KC who have joined us. I look forward to working with them, and all those who share our mission. It remains vital to people all over the globe.

Trevor Phillips

#### OUR AIMS

**Inform** Index seeks to broaden and deepen public understanding of global threats to freedom of expression as the first step to addressing those threats. Without such information, individuals are unable to make the informed decisions that are crucial for full participation in a free society. We raise awareness through our magazine, website and social media; monitoring and reporting of freedom of expression violations; and events and media.

**Support** Index supports censored writers, academics, artists and those facing censorship and threats to free expression, especially those operating under repressive regimes. 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.

**Influence** Index uses the expertise and information gathered in its award-winning magazine, in its online reporting, and through research and monitoring projects to campaign for change on specific freedom of expression issues. We achieve this through media campaigns, and by lobbying governments, multi-national organisations such as the Council of Europe and specific authorities on different issues. We work with other organisations to strengthen the power of our advocacy by sharing resources and information.

**Debate** Open debate is a central tenet of free expression and so Index actively promotes and leads discussion about the limits and concerns surrounding free expression, tackling subjects that are often ignored by mainstream media, or by taking discussions to different audiences.

#### Overview of the year 2022-23

This was another busy year for the Index team. Amid the ongoing fallout from the invasion of Ukraine, we have been increasingly reverting to our organisational roots by developing and investing in our relationships with dissident writers and artists, anchored in Belarus and Russia, but also working with people from around the world. Many dissidents from Hong Kong have now made the UK their home and Index has championed them, we have also been working closely with Afghan dissidents.

As we look ahead, next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the publication of Samuel Beckett's "Catastrophe" and Vaclav Havel's "Mistake" in the pages of Index on Censorship magazine. We are currently exploring how we can mark this anniversary and pay tribute to a new generation of dissidents in Europe. At the same time, we have continued to work on pre-existing areas and have been able to secure new funding streams for a range of policy areas.

#### SLAPPs

Index remains a leading partner organisation in the EU, UK and the island of Ireland anti-SLAPP coalitions, campaigning against the use of vexatious lawsuits. We have continued to successfully secure funding in relation to our SLAPPs work, this year from OSF, the Joffe Trust and from the Justice for Journalists Foundation.

- **UK:** In the UK, Index has continued to co-chair the UK Anti-SLAPP Coalition, a coalition of more than 50 academics, lawyers, and individuals representing dozens of non-profit organisations in the UK. Through the coalition, we have continued to uncover, investigate and highlight cases of SLAPPs in the UK, and support those who are affected. We are continuing to push for a standalone anti-SLAPP law, using the template of the model developed by the Coalition. In the meantime, we are working with the Ministry of Justice and parliamentarians to ensure that the best possible anti-SLAPP amendments are included in the Economic Crime Bill. Earlier this year, we launched our UK Anti-SLAPP Coalition website (developed with funding from OSF) and will continue to use the site as a repository for our work in the months and years ahead.

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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- **Ireland (EU):** Index established the Ireland Anti-SLAPP Network last year and has continued to chair meetings with stakeholders on a monthly basis. In Ireland, Index organised the first anti-SLAPP conference on the island of Ireland in March 2023. The conference was held at Trinity College Dublin (TCD), with keynote speeches from Bill Browder and UN Special Rapporteur Mary Lawlor. The fact that TCD refused to share and publish the recording of the conference (as previously agreed) due to legal concerns demonstrates the need to engage in this work in Ireland. In the summer of 2023, Index coordinated the submission of written evidence to the Department of Justice in response to the government's defamation proposal. Index also gave expert oral evidence on SLAPPs to the Justice Committee in July 2023. We continue to actively engage with the Coalition against SLAPPs in Europe (CASE) through our work in Ireland.

#### **Online Safety Bill**

Index also led the campaign in the UK against the worst excesses of the Online Safety Bill where freedom of expression was most vulnerable. The legislation is much improved but there remain clear threats to freedom of expression, not least a clear threat to end to end encryption. Our digital rights work also included activities in the European Union as we seek to protect political speech in the upcoming Political Advertising Regulation.

#### **New website and newsletter**

Our rebrand is now complete with a new website and associated newsletter launched in the spring. While we are still at the early stages of assessing the success of the new platforms, early indications are positive.

#### **Index Index**

We relaunched the Index Index for the first time in twenty years providing a global ranking of freedom of expression, in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University. Using a machine learning programme, we were able to incorporate open source data into one ranking and demonstrate the current global challenges to freedom of expression. The ranking was divided into academic freedom, digital freedom, and media freedom. We had hoped to incorporate artistic freedom into the ranking also, but there was not enough open-source information available in that area. The Index Index received widespread interest from media outlets and has re-established us as a go-to organisation for comment regarding freedom of expression challenges globally.

#### **Banned by Beijing / China's transnational repression**

We have continued to develop our work investigating and highlighting China's transnational repression through our Banned by Beijing project. We had a headline event for this project at the end of June, which was attended by over 200 people. The event opened an adjoining exhibition featuring dissident Chinese and Hong Kong artists. The exhibition remained open for a three-week period and was attended by over 1000 people. The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback and significant media coverage, including in the Hong Kong diaspora media outlets.

As part of the work, we have been involved in the campaign seeking to secure the release of the Hong Kong publisher and political prisoner Jimmy Lai. In April, Index participated in a panel discussion with his son Sebastian Lai. In the summer, we began a campaign aimed at gathering messages of solidarity to send to him ahead of his upcoming trial (he is facing a life sentence).

In the run up to the 35 anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre we are developing partnerships to commemorate the event - especially important as next year will be the first milestone anniversary of the Massacre that will not be openly commemorated in Hong Kong. It will therefore be especially important to mark it abroad to make sure it is not forgotten. The Tiananmen Massacre continues to be one of the most censored issues by the CCP at home and abroad.

#### **Letters from Lukashenka's Prisoners / Belarus**

We are no longer actively sourcing and publishing letters from political prisoners in Belarus as our funding period has come to an end, however we are actively seeking an alternative funder in order to continue and develop the project. Belarus has slipped from international focus, which is why it is all the more important that we continue to highlight the human rights crisis there, where nearly 1500 people remain behind bars. On the third anniversary of the botched election on 9

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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August 2023, Index highlighted our letters project via a 10-minute segment on BBC Radio. We are preparing to mark our former colleague Andrei Aliaksandrau's 1000th day in prison in October at the awards. He and his partner have been behind bars, as a result of their support for the protestors, since January 2021.

### ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

#### Magazine

Since its establishment in 1972, Index on Censorship magazine has published some of the greatest names in literature including Sir Salman Rushdie, Samuel Beckett, Nadine Gordimer, Mario Vargas Llosa, Hilary Mantel and Kurt Vonnegut. It also has published some of the greatest campaigning writers of our age from Vaclav Havel, Amartya Sen and Ariel Dorfman.

The magazine is available in more than 9,000 universities worldwide and had over a million article downloads in 2022/3.

#### Summer 2023: Express yourself: Overcoming neurodiversity stereotypes

The Summer 2023 issue of Index explores neurodiversity, the term coined in the late 1990s to identify and promote the positives of variation in human thinking which has become more widely used in the past few years. Are old stereotypes still rife? Has the perception of neurodiversity improved? If not, was this because of censorship? Using neurodivergent voices, we wanted to know about this in a global context.

The majority of the articles are written by neurodivergent people, as we wanted to put their voices front and centre. Many said they did have more of a voice, awareness had shot up and the word "neurodiversity" empowered and welcomed a growth in onscreen representation. However, at the same time it was clear that conversations around neurodiversity were playing out along society's current fault-lines and were far from immune.

#### Spring 2023: Modi's India: The Age of Intolerance

Index explores the current state of free expression in Narendra Modi's India. Our investigations paint a bleak picture: The press, once vibrant, is being strangled; the judiciary is no longer independent; laws have been amended to throw protesters in jail; opposition figures are harassed; minorities live in fear. Beyond our special report we publish an essay from Nariman Dzhelyal, who is the leader of the Crimean Tatars, written from his prison cell. Celebrated Ukrainian writer Andrey Kurkov introduces Dzhelyal and explains why he is such a formidable character. The academic and author Kerry Brown wades into the contentious issue of whether we should ban Confucius Institutes, while Jo-Ann Mort talks about the inventive tactics used by US organisations to fight abortion bans. Finally, Martin Bright reminds us of those Afghan journalists still living under Taliban rule.

#### Winter 2022: Crown Confidential: How Briton's Royals censor their records

The message of one of our founders, Stephen Spender, was that Index wouldn't be doing a good job if it didn't keep an eye on attacks to free expression that happen on home soil. With this in mind and with the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II putting the UK under increased global scrutiny, we spoke to the royal historian Andrew Lownie. He told us about his battle to access archives on the Mountbattens, part of the British royal family's inner circle. While Lownie was ultimately successful, but at great personal cost, he told us the files he struggled to access were just some of hundreds that are denied to the British public for no good reason. We decided to look into this censorship of British royal history, and the results of our special report are eye-opening. The number of historic files on the Royal Family which are unavailable, and the absurdity of the reasons for denying access to some of them, is staggering. Many historians and journalists are unable to carry out their work as a result. In one instance an entire book was dropped because of lack of access. We end the year with a simple request: to end this culture of secrecy by opening up official archives related to the Royal Family. Beyond our special report, we interview the Ukrainian author and 2022 Index on Censorship Freedom of Expression Awards winner Andrey Kurkov; Vandana Shiva tells us how the control of seeds silences farmers in India; and Kaya Genç looks at how the Turkish government has waged a convenient war on 'misinformation' ahead of next year's general elections.

#### Autumn 2022: The beautiful game? Qatar, freedom and football

The hosting of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar caused global outrage, with many calling for a boycott of the event. In the run up to the tournament we turned the lens to the question of football and freedoms. We set out with a simple question: "Is

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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football bad for free speech?" And yet the answer was complex. Kaya Genc writes about Turkish President Recep Erdogan buying up sporting clubs to stop the arenas being used for protest; China's leader Xi Jinping force-feeds the nation's kids a diet of soccer while Uyghur footballers playing for Chinese teams are paraded as examples of racial harmony. Against these negatives are stories of remarkable positivity. Permi Jhooti, the real-life inspiration for Bend It Like Beckham, says football gave her a voice to challenge the traditions she had been raised in. The same applied to Khalida Popal, the first captain of Afghanistan's women's team. We asked a leading philosopher, Julian Baggini, whether we should expect the world's footballers to speak out against atrocities. His answer was no. We asked an activist from Qatar whether we should boycott the tournament. His answer was yes. Beyond the special report, we interview the activist Benedict Rogers, Martin Bright looks at the history of reggae in Poland, we report on "banned books clubs" in the USA and Flo Marks writes about the erasure of bisexual identities.

#### **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. Over the last year Index has continued in our online efforts with more original analysis and comment commissioned directly for the website. We have revamped the output of our social media offering and have seen a steady increase in followers and engagement.

#### **SUPPORT**

##### **Commissioning writers and artists**

Index supports artists and writers by directly commissioning them and featuring their stories in the magazine. We also shine a light on their experiences and seek to provide both practical support and solidarity. In the past year, we have also supported artists by featuring their work in an exhibition we hosted in St John's Waterloo and intend to continue developing our support for artists in the year to come.

##### **Giving a voice to political prisoners**

A key aspect of our work continues to be driven by events in central and eastern Europe. One of our former colleagues, Andrei Aliaksandrau, remains behind bars in Belarus for paying the fines of those protesting the contested election in August 2020. In October 2023, we will mark his 1000th day in prison. We have supported political prisoners through our Letters from Lukashenka's Prisoners project, which seeks to give a voice to those facing persecution for their pursuit of human rights and democracy.

##### **Raising money for Afghan dissidents**

Index also worked with partners to support Afghan dissidents after the re-emergence of the Taliban in 2021.

##### **Advising SLAPP targets**

We continue to support and advise those affected by legal harassment (SLAPPs) by connecting them with legal support, helping to coordinate trial monitoring for their cases, and preparing submissions to the court where relevant. In the case of journalists, we also file media freedom alerts to the Council of Europe Platform, through which states are informed of cases of legal harassment against the media.

#### **Awards**

Our work to support individuals is complemented through our Freedom of Expression Awards, where we seek to support those who are targeted for defending free expression. Awards are offered in three categories: arts, campaigning 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. As part of the awards programme the winners are given a financial grant and we seek to give them and their work more profile than they would otherwise have.

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### 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
- exposing new and emergent threats
- providing contemporary analysis of comparable restrictions.

#### Legal harassment (SLAPPs)

A core element of Index's work is to analyse and expose the impact of legal harassment of journalists and other public watchdogs (SLAPPs) across Europe. This is dominating our media advocacy work as we lead efforts for changes in the legal framework which enable SLAPPs currently.

#### Transnational repression

Through a combination of diplomatic, cultural and economic levers, repressive regimes are increasingly seeking to shape international discourse according to their own narrative. Our funding for phase one of our "Banned by Beijing" work programme, investigating and highlighting how the Chinese Communist Party is leveraging its power in order to censor people in Europe, has now come to an end. We will continue to challenge China's efforts to transnationally repress discussions that fall outside of their own boundaries.

#### Digital

Our work this year has continued to focus on the UK's proposals to regulate social media platforms to enhance user safety. Index is a leading member of the Legal to Type, Legal to Say campaign and is 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.

#### DEBATE

Index has made it one of our primary goals to reach new audiences. Annually Index staff take part in more than 50 public events, including book launches, panel discussions, and performances of banned plays.

We host our own events, including our launches of our four magazines a year which feature lively speakers and interesting discussions that connect to magazine content.

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, the Times, and the Telegraph on freedom of expression issues and are the go-to commentator on matters of freedom of expression.

#### PLANS FOR 2023/24 AND BEYOND: A NOTE FROM THE CEO

I am so proud of everything that my team achieved over the last financial year. Working together they have punched well above their collective weight and for a small team, delivered more than NGO's ten times our size. From promoting new anti-SLAPP legislation, to driving a UK Government review into aspects of the Holocaust not previously acknowledged, they have shaped the discussion on free expression both at home and abroad.

In terms of what comes next, the current economic outlook is more challenging for Index than it has been over the last three years. Index will therefore be seeking to consolidate after our recent growth and refocus our efforts on areas where we have funded workstreams and where we know we can make the most impact.

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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In addition to our ongoing work on SLAPPs and in the digital rights sphere, we will be seeking to launch a new project - building on our previous workstream - Banned by Beijing, exploring how the Chinese Communist Party is seeking to censor both Chinese dissidents who no longer live in the mainland and those people who are supporting them.

Index is also seeking to establish a new project - building on our success at publishing letters from political dissidents in Belarus, we hope to publish first-hand accounts from Rohingya women currently in camps in Bangladesh - after fleeing from Myanmar.

The magazine will remain the anchor to our work and I want to thank both our publisher, Sage, and our subscribers for their continued support.

On a personal note, I want to thank both our board of Trustees and our professional staff whose collective efforts have enabled us to achieve so much together in the name of freedom of expression.

As you can tell we have ambitious plans and look forward to working with you to make sure we stay a Voice for the Persecuted.

**Ruth Anderson**

#### FUNDING

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 of the following during the year:

Arts Council England  
Clifford Chance  
Edwardian Hotels  
The Elaine and David Potter Foundation  
Fritt Ord  
Google  
Hachette  
Hollick Family Foundation  
Human Rights House  
Joffe Foundation  
Justice For Journalists Foundation  
Liverpool John Moores University  
Kate Maltby  
Meta  
Microsoft  
Mishcon De Reya  
New Philanthropy Capital  
Oak Foundation  
Open Society Foundation  
Profile Books  
Sage Publications  
Sky UK  
The Times & Sunday Times  
Twitter

and various individuals who have supported the organisation through individual donations or through subscription to the magazine.

The charity is a member of the Fundraising Regulator and has not received any complaints about our practices. It does not employ third-party fundraising agencies, nor does it directly court the general public.

# WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### **Fundraising**

The financial year 2022-23 saw total income rise from £1,136,618 to £1,591,114, mainly accounted by new project funding from Oak Foundation, Open Society Foundation (OSF), the Joffe Charitable Trust, Human Rights House and Meta (formerly Facebook) and renewed project funding from Human Rights House and Meta (formerly Facebook). We received continued core funding from The Armitage Foundation (New Philanthropy Capital), OSF, Fritt Ord and Arts Council England and Wales. We held our second post-pandemic annual Freedom of Expression Awards fundraising evening, which secured £54,000 (2022: £48,500) in sponsorship.

The charity's income rose from to £840,240 in 2021-22 to £1,073,120, largely due to project funding for our charitable activities. Our individual giving fell from £44,7343 to £39,788. The company's income rose from £296,380 to £517,994, largely due to two grants from Meta totalling £265,000.

At the date of these accounts, much of the above core funding has been renewed.

#### **Financial Report and going concern**

The Trustees are delighted to report that for the second year in a row, we have had an exceedingly strong financial performance and bolstered our reserves considerably. Consolidated surplus/profit was £324,026, though it must be borne in mind, of this, £194,000 is restricted funding, so that the amount added to free reserves is actually £129,000. This leaves a consolidated free reserves position of £296,000.

The charity made a surplus of £129,000 of which half was free reserves. Its free reserves level now sits at £181,000. The Company made a profit of £194,715, of which £64,000 goes into free reserves, giving a total of free reserves of £113,285.

On turnover, we showed an increase of almost a half a million pounds on the previous year, with our income being £1,591,114. However, this has been swollen considerably by disbursement grants, of the order of £650,000 (and reflects the restricted reserve levels discussed above). The Company increased turnover on previous year, from £296,000 to £518,000, largely due to two grants from Meta totalling £265,000. The Charity was able to secure three new grants for its SLAPPs work as this is showing itself to be a fertile area for us. Core donors OSF, Armitage Foundation, Arts Council and Fritt Ord continue to support us. Individual donations fell, from £44,734 to £39,788. It still remains a challenge for us to make this a more significant income stream.

The fundraising landscape will prove considerably tougher this year, with the plight of Tech companies who have supported us in recent years now meaning that they will cut back on support. We are well placed to absorb this shortfall with our reserves level, though of course we will be pursuing other avenues to fill the gap they leave.

Of the £793k of charitable activity costs, the disbursement grants accounted for £500k of this. Salary costs came in at £238k, compared to £203k the previous year. There were several factors behind this. First of all, there were the two cost of living allowance payments to all staff, accounting for an unbudgeted £20k. There was an additional £12k in staffers which was fully funded by one of our NED grants. The freelance expenditure was £38k rather than £24k, of which £5k was funded by one of our Clifford Chance project funding. Finally, the holiday pay accrual, was increased by £3k from previous years.

With a first full year working remotely, overheads have come down from £63,806 to £38,910. This is despite a considerable hike in our insurance premiums, reflecting the decreased appetite for risk in the insurance industry. Governance costs have risen from £16,226 to £18,701 due to increased audit fees. With remote working, staff travel for meetings was £7,000 which was almost a quarter up over budget and this has been adjusted for in next year's budget. Staff travel is on public transport rather than private motor cars. On other variance, computer costs at £2,300 was double over budget, but this is due to having to kit (software, security etc) four staff members with new laptops. Despite salary costs coming in over budget as above, overall variance showed 3% under budget on all expenditure.

#### **Reserves policy**

The reserves policy has been established by the Index board, with the desired level of reserves being based on a consideration of at-risk funding. The board feel this represents the most and measurable way of arriving at a reserves target. The target carried forward from last year was £123k of unrestricted funds, which equated to three months operating costs at then level (£41k per month). The trustees are pleased to report that this target has been exceeded, with a free reserves

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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position at the end of the year of £296k. A recalculation of the reserves level was carried out within the year, setting the desired level of £135k, which again currently has been exceeded.

The level of unrestricted funds is £296,000 (2022: £166,326)

The level of restricted funds is £194,000. (2022: £nil)

There are no designated or endowment funds in the current and prior period.

#### **Public Benefit Statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees ensure that this purpose is carried out by the performance of services valued by the public both in the UK and internationally.

Both forms of editorial content (online and print) offer the highest quality of commissioned journalism and analysis, providing viewpoints from all parts of the spectrum of any free expression debate. Our expert editorial filter of censorship issues can be used to help those interested in free expression, find contextualised and verified information in support of free speech. We augment the news, picking the most important and most interesting free expression stories and pushing them out to a wider audience. The interest shown by the public in several of the current debates around free expression throughout all media has been particularly well served by the charity. Index has been at the forefront of many of such debates, able to deliver them in accessible form, through editorial content and events showcasing key figures from relevant fields and disciplines. We also have extended geographical access to our debates through podcasting and video recordings available through our website and social media digital platforms. These reflect two of our objectives to inform and to encourage debate. We have continued post-pandemic to conduct some of our events online which are geographically open to audiences worldwide, to augment in-person events which realistically are limited to local audiences.

The research and articles published in Index on Censorship magazine are of direct relevance to specialist professionals in law, media and academia, but they also serve to deepen the knowledge and advance learning of the broader public, in the understanding and analysis of human rights. Extracts from the magazine continue to be offered for free on our website, while the entire archive from years previous to the current one are available for free online. Increasing social media followers and web viewing figures attest to the widening of our audience. We have continued to support media practitioners with our guidelines for operating in difficult media environments, be it under repressive regimes or individuals and corporations who seek to 'chill' free speech.

Index continues to bring material to under-represented communities in the freedom of expression debate, and particularly expanding its reach towards greater numbers of young people and people involved in education. As part of this initiative, we work closely with several UK and international universities and offer several research roles for graduates and post-graduate.

In order to pursue our work in accordance with our mission and public benefit statements, we have a legitimate interest in holding and processing the data of both individuals and organisations.

#### **Governance and Management**

##### **Trustee Board**

Trustees serve for a period of five years. Existing Trustees select members of the Trustee Board. Currently recruitment has occurred through personal recommendation and word of mouth. Rules and guidelines published by the Charity Commission on the responsibilities of being a Trustee are provided to all new Trustees. In addition, new Trustees are inducted in the charity by the Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees. Training is offered to the Trustees on ongoing basis in relation to best practice and good governance.

Every effort is made to ensure that all specialist areas of the Charity's operation are represented. Candidates that strengthen the Board are always considered, with no upper limit on the number of Trustees. Trustees meet four times a year to review strategy, risk and performance and to approve the operating plans and budgets. The majority of Trustee meetings take place at location provided by the Trustees or occasionally online. Individual staff members meet the Trustees on a regular basis.

Responsibility for strategy, planning and the day-to-day management of operations is delegated to a management team led by the Chief Executive. Formal reporting by the Chief Executive takes place in writing a week prior to each Trustee meeting. The key issues arising from this report and any other matters are then discussed in detail at the Trustee meeting. Minutes are then circulated, within seven days, for approval at the subsequent Trustee meeting. In addition, the Treasurer

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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meets monthly with the Head of Finance and quarterly the Chief Executive joins these meetings. The Treasurer acts as a check on financial best practice and oversees financial matters where segregation of duties are not possible due to the relative small size of the staff.

The pay of the senior management team ('key management personnel') and all staff are regularly reviewed and where there are increases these are in line with average earnings and any cost of living adjustment. With the sharp and sudden increase in the cost of living in the UK in 2023, the Board implemented two one-off payments to help staff in this regard. Another is earmarked for October 2023 subject to the economic situation and review by the Board. In view of the nature of the charity, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other charities. The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles in equivalent sized charities

#### **Risk Review**

With a full risk register in place, throughout the year the Trustees consider the top five or ten risks anticipated or actually faced in the year, in terms of likelihood, impact, mitigations and responsibility. These are then added to the risk register as an update. The Trustees are satisfied that systems have been developed and are in place to mitigate identified risks to a satisfactory level. The last risk review was carried out by the Trustees in March 2023.

The issues considered were as follows:

- 1) Loss of key personnel. While staff retention has been good since the outbreak of the pandemic and the switch to working from home, we are prepared for significant positions becoming vacant in the next financial year.  
Mitigations: We have plenty of notice for this and have made provision in the budget for 23-24 for recruitment costs and any transitional budgetary requirements.
- 2) Funding landscape changes. We receive a proportion of our funding in the form of sponsorship and project work from global technology companies in the digital communications sphere. This sector has recently undergone downsizing and we can expect that to impact our funding from these sources.  
Mitigations: We are working on an assumption that we will see this funding reduced and have factored this into the budgeting. The organisation is habitually striving to widen its funding base to as many donors as possible as a mitigation against these sorts of downturns in various sectors and will continue to do so as a matter of good business and charitable practice.
- 3) Our work on SLAPPs exposes us to receiving a SLAPP ourselves.  
Mitigations: We ensure there is a full paper trail of our activities and publications and that the Board are kept informed so that they can continually assess their risk appetite for each and every action undertaken in this sphere.
- 4) Under the proposed new National Security legislation, funding received from overseas can potentially cause a UK organisation to be flagged as a foreign agent. This could seriously impact our funding from overseas, (the US, Norway, Sweden, Hungary, Ireland) either in it being less likely to be received, or causing us problems if received and getting flagged. Mitigations: This was already part of our campaigning and advocacy work on the proposed legislation and we have built up a network of partners to seek clarification if and when the Bill is passed in its current form.

#### **Management**

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- A strategic plan and annual budget overseen by the Trustees
- Regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, non-financial performance indicators and benchmarking reviews
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- Identification and management of risk as above

## **WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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#### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and its financial activities for the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ascertain the financial position of the Charity and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware. They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

#### **POWERS AND RESTRICTIONS**

The Trustees have absolute discretion to decide which of the Trust's purposes to forward, and no limitations on the means they adopt to do so. In particular they have complete discretion to invest money as they wish and are therefore not bound by the provisions of the Trustee Investment Act.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips**

**Chair**

**Date:** 14 September 2023

## **WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

### **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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#### **STATUS**

The Writers and Scholars Educational Trust is a registered charity, number 325003, constituted by the Trust Deed dated 25 March 1971. In June 2016 the charity was converted into the status of a corporate trustee, WSET Trustee Ltd, company registered number 10188386. The Trustees of WSET resigned on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and were immediately appointed as Directors of the corporate trustee WSET Trustee Ltd.

The directors of WSET Trustee Ltd are:

Trevor Phillips (Chair)  
Sarah Sands (resigned 15/09/2022)  
Kate Maltby  
James Goode (Treasurer)  
Andrew Franklin  
Nick Timothy (appointed 12/07/2023)  
Helen Mountfield KC (appointed 12/07/2023)

#### **Management**

Ruth Smeeth – Chief Executive  
David Sewell – Finance Director  
Jemimah Steinfeld – Editor

#### **The principal address and contact details**

86-90 Paul Street  
London  
EC2A 4NE

E-Mail: [ceo@indexonensorship.org](mailto:ceo@indexonensorship.org)  
Website : [www.indexonensorship.org](http://www.indexonensorship.org)

#### **Auditors:**

Haysmacintyre LLP, 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1AG

#### **Bankers:**

Triodos Bank NV, Brunel House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5A

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Writers and Scholars Educational Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Charity Balance Sheets, Statement of Consolidated Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of the group's net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

#### Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the parent charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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#### **Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 11 the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations is related to regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in certain accounting estimates and judgements such as the income recognition policy. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with appropriate regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Review of minutes of meetings to identify instances of fraud;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Haysmacintyre LLP*

**Haysmacintyre LLP**  
Statutory Auditor

10 Queen Street Place  
London  
EC4R 1AG

19th September 2023

haysmacintyre is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
<b>Donations &amp; legacies</b>	2	254,306	305,000	559,306	384,059
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Publishing fees & royalties	3	118,881	-	118,881	114,264
Other income from charitable activities	3	63,119	793,529	856,648	589,716
<b>Other trading activities</b>					
Events income	3	54,400	-	54,400	48,500
<b>Investments Income</b>		1,879	-	1,879	79
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>492,585</u>	<u>1,098,529</u>	<u>1,591,114</u>	<u>1,136,618</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
<b>Raising funds</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	20,764	305,000	325,764	270,123
Fundraising activities	4	442	-	442	3,962
<b>Charitable activities</b>	4	147,353	793,529	940,882	728,028
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>168,559</u>	<u>1,098,529</u>	<u>1,287,088</u>	<u>1,002,113</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		324,026	-	324,026	134,505
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		166,326	-	166,326	31,821
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>490,352</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>490,352</u>	<u>166,326</u>

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued in the year.

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on page 18 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**GROUP AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEET**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Group		Charity	
		2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	7	4,042	1,057	-	-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	8	52,291	59,270	162,758	27,209
Cash at bank and in hand		585,825	292,303	163,074	165,900
		638,116	351,573	325,832	193,109
<b>CREDITORS:</b> Amounts falling due within one year	9	(151,806)	(186,304)	(79,997)	(76,587)
Net current assets		486,310	165,269	245,835	116,522
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		490,352	166,326	245,835	116,522
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted income funds	10	490,352	166,326	245,835	116,522
Restricted income funds	11	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		490,352	166,326	245,835	116,522

The accounts were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips**  
Chair

Date: 14 September 2023

The notes on page 18 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities (see below)	297,397	143,725
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Purchase of fixed assets	(3,875)	(866)
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(3,875)</b>	<b>(866)</b>
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>		
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>293,522</b>	<b>142,859</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	292,303	149,444
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>585,825</b>	<b>292,303</b>

**RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Net (expenditure) for the reporting year (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	<b>324,026</b>	<b>134,505</b>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	890	1,508
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	6,979	(24,103)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(34,498)	21,938
Loss on disposal assets	-	9,878
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<b>297,397</b>	<b>143,725</b>

**ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT**

	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	Other non- cash changes	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Cash and bank	292,303	293,522		585,825

# WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of financial statements is as follows:

##### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2015) (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2021), and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Writers and Scholars Educational Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

##### **Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The Group has recorded a surplus in the year of £324,026 with overall funds in surplus by £490,352. The charity has taken the opportunity to restructure the organisation. This has resulted in less reliance on specific projects with fewer staff being required with a redundancy having taken place and other staff not being replaced. A cost cutting exercise has also been undertaken resulting in the charity giving up its office. Forecast budgets and cash flows have been prepared for the period to 30 September 2024. These forecasts indicate that the group has sufficient cash to continue its operations for the foreseeable future. The trustees consider there to be no material uncertainties relating to going concern.

As a result of the above, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which the trustees consider to be appropriate.

##### **Basis of consolidation**

The group financial statements consolidate those of the charity and its subsidiary company, Writers and Scholars International Limited (“the Company”) drawn up to 31 March 2023. Surpluses or deficits on intra-group transactions are eliminated in full.

Results of the company which engages in activities similar to those of the charity are consolidated on a line-by-line basis in the SOFA and balance sheet.

##### **Fixed assets**

Fixed assets are recorded at cost. Assets acquired with a value of less than £100 are not capitalised but are written off as revenue expenditure.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write down the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives as follows:

Computers	25% straight line
Fixtures & Fittings	10% straight line

##### **Income recognition**

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably.

Income from grants and fees is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those.

# WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Where income is received in advance of its recognition it is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income being received the income is accrued.

#### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred, inclusive of VAT, which cannot be recovered.

All expenditure has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the following categories:

**Charitable Activities** – Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to achieving the charitable objectives of the charity, including the costs of disseminating information in support of charitable activities. These costs include staff costs, wholly or mainly attributable support costs and an apportionment of general overheads.

**Governance costs** – These comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to ensuring the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulations.

Staff costs are allocated by the trustees between direct charitable expenditure and support expenditure on the basis of time spent on these activities. Other costs are ascribed directly to the relevant heading.

#### **Pension costs**

Writers & Scholars Educational Trust operates a defined contributions scheme for the benefit of the employees. The assets of the Scheme are held independently from those of Writers & Scholars Educational Trust in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represents the contributions payable during the year.

#### **Operating lease agreements**

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against profits on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

#### **Restricted funds**

Where grants are to be spent in accordance with terms agreed with the funders, the income and related expenditure are shown as 'Restricted'. Any unspent restricted income at the year-end is deferred for spending to future years.

#### **Unrestricted funds**

Core income and such other income for which there are no restrictions on the way it can be spent are termed 'Unrestricted'. Such unspent income at the year-end is termed 'Unrestricted funds'.

#### **Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes bank accounts, cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

# WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

##### Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

##### Estimation uncertainty

In the view of the trustees in applying the accounting policies adopted, no judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements nor do any estimates or assumptions made carry a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year.

##### Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basis financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

#### 2. DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	39,788	44,734
Grants:		
David & Elaine Potter Foundation	-	40,000
Fritt Ord	25,106	37,217
Google	20,000	114,086
Meta	265,000	-
Microsoft	8,039	-
Clifford Chance	-	83,000
John Armitage Charitable Trust	50,000	50,000
Twitter	-	10,000
Bequests	-	5,022
Future Russia Fund	40,000	-
OSF	109,930	-
Other Grants	1,443	-
	<u>559,306</u>	<u>384,059</u>

The donation from Meta of £265,000 (2022: £nil) and Future Russia Fund of £40,000 (2022: £nil) are restricted.

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

<b>3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - 2023</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Liverpool John Moores University	10,884	-	10,884	10,722
National Endowment for Democracy	-	346,293	346,293	419,695
Arts Council England	43,915	-	43,915	43,915
Joffe Foundation	-	29,984	29,984	-
OSF	-	80,064	80,064	-
Oak	-	220,575	220,575	-
Swedish Lottery	-	-	-	40,913
Publishing fees and royalties	118,881	-	118,881	114,264
Event income	54,400	-	54,400	48,500
Justice for Journalists Foundation	8,073	-	8,073	1,800
OSF Euroasia	-	-	-	72,509
OSF	-	47,167	47,167	-
NED	-	69,446	69,446	-
FPC	247	-	247	-
CAPA	-	-	-	162
	<u>236,400</u>	<u>793,529</u>	<u>1,029,929</u>	<u>752,480</u>

<b>3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - 2022</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
Liverpool John Moores University	10,722	-	10,722	10,722
National Endowment for Democracy	-	419,695	419,695	121,963
Arts Council England	43,915	-	43,915	43,915
Swedish Lottery	-	40,913	40,913	87,164
Publishing fees and royalties	114,264	-	114,264	111,048
Event income	48,500	-	48,500	-
Justice for Journalists Foundation	1,800	-	1,800	-
OSF Euroasia	-	72,509	72,509	-
	162	-	162	-
Other direct income	-	-	-	13,996
	<u>219,363</u>	<u>533,117</u>	<u>752,480</u>	<u>388,808</u>

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

<b>4. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE - 2023</b>	<b>Direct Costs £</b>	<b>Support Costs £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Charitable activities:				
Publications	110,887	91,003	201,890	190,488
Projects	726,418	22,574	748,992	537,540
	<u>837,305</u>	<u>113,577</u>	<u>950,882</u>	<u>728,028</u>
Raising funds – donations and legacies	117,265	208,499	325,764	270,123
- fundraising activities	442	-	442	3,962
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>955,012</u></u>	<u><u>322,076</u></u>	<u><u>1,277,088</u></u>	<u><u>1,002,113</u></u>

<b>ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE - 2022</b>	<b>Direct Costs £</b>	<b>Support Costs £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Charitable activities:			
Publications	91,758	98,730	190,488
Projects	499,530	38,010	537,540
	<u>591,288</u>	<u>136,740</u>	<u>728,028</u>
Raising funds – donations and legacies	78,195	191,928	270,123
- fundraising activities	3,962	-	3,962
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>673,445</u></u>	<u><u>328,668</u></u>	<u><u>1,002,113</u></u>

**SUPPORT COSTS CONSIST OF:**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Staff costs	238,176	203,048
Premises	13,968	34,394
Office and administration	24,942	28,692
Professional and consultancy	22,580	24,914
Currency exchange differences	(1,573)	-
Irrecoverable VAT	4,392	9,549
Depreciation	890	1,967
Loss on disposal of assets	-	9,878
Governance (see note 5)	18,701	16,226
	<u><u>322,076</u></u>	<u><u>328,668</u></u>

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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<b>5. GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Auditor's remuneration	18,701	16,226
Other fees	-	-
Meeting expenses	-	-
	<u>18,701</u>	<u>16,226</u>
	<u><u>18,701</u></u>	<u><u>16,226</u></u>

Other fees payable to the auditors amounted to £nil (2022: £nil)

No trustees received any remuneration (2022: £nil) and no trustees were reimbursed for travel costs (2022: £nil).

<b>6. EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Group staff costs were as follows:		
Wages and salaries	373,825	301,802
National insurance contributions	36,029	26,852
Pension contributions	8,411	6,635
	<u>418,265</u>	<u>335,289</u>
	<u><u>418,265</u></u>	<u><u>335,289</u></u>

The average weekly number of employees during the year were as follows:

	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Charitable activities	13	7
Management and support	1	1
	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u><u>14</u></u>	<u><u>8</u></u>
Number of employees earning between £60,000 - £69,999	-	1
Number of employees earning between £90,000 - £99,999	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

Staff benefits paid to key management personnel amounted to £151,273 (2022 - £151,096).

WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7. FIXED ASSETS	Fixtures and Fittings £	Computers £	Total £
<b>Group</b>			
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2022	219	3,099	3,318
Additions	786	3,089	3,875
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,005</u>	<u>6,188</u>	<u>7,193</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2022	29	2,232	2,261
Charge for the year	68	822	890
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>97</u>	<u>3,054</u>	<u>3,151</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 31 March 2023	<u>908</u>	<u>3,134</u>	<u>4,042</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>190</u>	<u>867</u>	<u>1,057</u>

8. DEBTORS	Group		Charity	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	20,247	-	247	-
Prepayments	18,260	22,913	17,985	16,723
Accrued income	-	4,453	-	4,453
Other debtors	13,784	31,904	-	-
Due from Writers and Scholars Int'l Ltd	-	-	144,526	6,033
	<u>52,291</u>	<u>59,270</u>	<u>162,758</u>	<u>27,209</u>

9. CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	Group		Charity	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Bank overdraft	530	209	-	-
Trade creditors	51	-	-	-
Other creditors	-	3,242	-	3,242
Taxation and social security	10,020	7,999	10,020	7,999
Accruals	34,545	29,116	18,387	13,074
Deferred income	106,660	145,738	51,590	52,272
	<u>151,806</u>	<u>186,304</u>	<u>79,997</u>	<u>76,587</u>

WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

DEFERRED INCOME	Group		Charity	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Brought forward	145,738	113,622	52,272	61,713
Released in the year	(145,738)	(113,622)	(52,272)	(61,713)
Deferred in the year	106,660	145,738	51,590	52,272
Carried forward	<u>106,660</u>	<u>145,738</u>	<u>51,590</u>	<u>52,272</u>

Deferred income relates to grant income received in advance for the next accounting period.

10. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS – GROUP – 2023	WSET £	WSIL £	TOTAL £
Balance brought forward	116,522	49,804	166,326
Net income	129,311	194,715	324,026
Balance carried forward	<u>245,833</u>	<u>244,519</u>	<u>490,352</u>

UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS – GROUP - 2022	WSET £	WSIL £	TOTAL £
Balance brought forward	71,272	(39,451)	31,821
Net income	45,250	89,255	134,505
Balance carried forward	<u>116,522</u>	<u>49,804</u>	<u>166,326</u>

11. RESTRICTED FUNDS - 2023	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Meta	-	265,000	(265,000)	-
Future Russia Fund	-	40,000	(40,000)	-
National Endowment for Democracy	-	346,293	(346,293)	-
Joffe Foundation	-	29,984	(29,984)	-
OSF	-	80,064	(80,064)	-
Oak	-	220,575	(220,575)	-
OSF SLAPPS	-	47,167	(47,167)	-
National Endowment for Democracy	-	69,446	(69,446)	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,108,529</u>	<u>(1,108,529)</u>	<u>-</u>

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**11. RESTRICTED FUNDS (Continued)**

<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS - 2022</b>	<b>Balance at 1 April 2021 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2022 £</b>
Swedish Lottery	-	40,913	(40,913)	-
National Endowment for Democracy	-	419,695	(419,695)	-
OSF Euroasia	-	72,509	(72,509)	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<u>533,117</u>	<u>(533,117)</u>	-

**Nature and purpose of each fund:**

**Meta**

End to End Encryption EU draft legislation analysis and advocacy

**Future Russia Fund**

Providing access to trustworthy news reporting to Russia outside of their rigidly controlled news output.

**National Endowment for Democracy**

Researching means of greater accessibility to digital expression where it is controlled.

**Joffe Foundation**

To promote our work to combat vexatious lawsuits that chill free speech

**OSF & Oak**

Providing access to trustworthy news reporting to Russia and Ukraine outside of their rigidly controlled news output.

**OSF SLAPPS**

To promote our work to combat vexatious lawsuits that chill free speech

**NED BbB**

Monitoring and reporting the soft power influence wielded by state actors in the spheres of academia, arts and culture

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 12. WRITERS AND SCHOLARS INTERNATIONAL LTD

This is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and is a subsidiary of the charity. It outsources the publication of the magazine Index on Censorship, which is the main outlet through which the Trust fulfils its charitable objectives. All activities of the company have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the SOFA.

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</b>		
Turnover	517,994	296,380
Cost of sales	(282,600)	(174,768)
	<u>235,394</u>	<u>121,612</u>
<b>Gross profit</b>	235,394	121,612
Overhead expenditure	(40,680)	(32,357)
	<u>194,714</u>	<u>89,255</u>
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>	194,714	89,255
Interest receivable	-	-
	<u>194,714</u>	<u>89,255</u>
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the financial year</b>	<u>194,714</u>	<u>89,255</u>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
<b>Fixed assets</b>	4,040	1,056
	<u>456,812</u>	<u>164,496</u>
<b>Current assets</b>	456,812	164,496
<b>Creditors falling due within one year</b>	(216,336)	(115,750)
	<u>244,516</u>	<u>49,802</u>
<b>Net current (liabilities)/assets</b>	244,516	49,802
	<u>244,516</u>	<u>49,802</u>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>	244,516	49,802
	<u>244,516</u>	<u>49,802</u>

#### Transactions

During the year expenditure of £7,912 (2022: £54,687) was recharged to Writers & Scholars International Limited by Writers & Scholars Educational Trust. At the balance sheet date the amount due from Writers & Scholars International Limited was £144,526 (2022: £6,033).

#### 13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The David and Elaine Potter Foundation made a grant of £Nil (2022: £36,000) in the year, with £nil (2022: £nil) due to be received at the year end. Elaine Potter is a trustee of the charity. Kate Maltby, a trustee of the charity donated £1,000 to the charity in the year (2022: £3,250). Trevor Phillip, a trustee of the charity donated £3,000 to the charity in the year (2022: £3,030). Kate Maltby, Trevor Philips and Andrew Franklin purchased attendance for the Awards via Writers and Scholars International Limited.

An employee of Writers and Scholars Educational Trust was seconded to 1 Cent Magenta Communications Ltd, a company under common control. During the year £14,753 (2022: £nil) was recharged from Writers & Scholars Education Trust, at the year-end date £Nil (2022: £nil) was outstanding.

No other related parties have occurred in the year or prior year.

WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

14. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>				
<b>Donations &amp; legacies</b>	<b>2</b>	384,059	-	384,059
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Publishing fees & royalties	<b>3</b>	114,264	-	114,264
Other income from charitable activities	<b>3</b>	56,599	533,117	589,716
<b>Other trading activities</b>				
Events income	<b>3</b>	48,500	-	48,500
<b>Investments</b>		79	-	79
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>603,501</u>	<u>533,117</u>	<u>1,136,618</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>				
<b>Raising funds</b>				
Donations and legacies	<b>4</b>	270,123	-	270,123
Fundraising activities	<b>4</b>	3,962	-	3,962
<b>Charitable activities</b>	<b>4</b>	194,911	533,117	728,028
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>468,996</u>	<u>533,117</u>	<u>1,002,113</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>				
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		134,505	-	134,505
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
Total funds brought forward		31,821	-	31,821
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>166,326</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>166,326</u></u>

**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 325003

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# Accounts

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**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**Charity Number: 325003**

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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## **WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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The Trustees submit their annual report and the financial statements of the charity and group (consisting of Writers and Scholars Educational Trust and its subsidiary – Writers and scholars International Limited) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The Trustees have complied with statutory requirements and the requirements of the charity's Trust Deed, in preparing the financial statements

#### **ABOUT INDEX ON CENSORSHIP**

Index on Censorship is a non-profit organization, based in the UK, but with a global remit. We campaign for, and defend freedom, of expression worldwide. We believe everyone should be free to express themselves without fear of harm or persecution.

Our aim is to raise awareness about the value of free speech and highlight 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, as well as run campaigns protecting the right to freedom of expression both online and in real life.

Our ultimate goal is to be a voice for the persecuted and to expose the threats of totalitarian regimes and actions wherever they may be.

#### **CHAIR'S STATEMENT**

Fifty years on from the launch of Index on Censorship, our founders would not be surprised that our task today is no less weighty than was theirs. They knew that they were embarking on the work of generations to come. Indeed, whilst much of Index's reputation was built on advocacy for artists and works from behind the Iron Curtain, our wise predecessors were clear from the outset that no society, however governed, would be immune from the threat of censorship.

Today, much of our time is devoted to monitoring the suppression of freedoms in, for example, Belarus and Beijing; but early campaigns launched in our magazine targeted the persecution of artists in Bangladesh and Brazil, and our team is no less global in its outlook. In recent years, not only have threats sprung up in traditional geographies; the very technologies which promised to liberate a wider range of voices are instead being used to drown out diversity of opinion all over the globe.

Authoritarian regimes use social media to interfere with democratic processes in their own and other nations. Populists mobilise to marginalise minority opinion. And even in liberal democracies, the threat of public shaming increasingly raises the hurdle to open-minded debate in media and higher education.

Every one of these challenges reaffirms the need for an organisation like Index. We are, of course, just one of several organisations which share the mission to protect freedom of expression. But our special role in amplifying the whispers of those who dare not speak loudly, in shining a light in the corners where darkness rules, and in providing an arena in which minds may meet and contend with generosity could not be more timely.

In order to carry out our task we rely on many supporters; they provide information, inspiration, and funds. We never have enough of any of these - but that support allows us to have far more impact than our tiny organisation could generate on its own. We are grateful to all those who have stood by us through the difficult times, and who remain at our side.

The board is proud of the organisation's renewed stability and raised profile; the work of our professional staff, under the exemplary leadership of Ruth Smeeth has brought Index back to the forefront of one of the most pressing battles of our time : the fight to be free to share our fundamental beliefs with whoever we wish, whenever and wherever we think it right.

**Trevor Phillips**

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### OUR AIMS

**Inform** Index seeks to broaden and deepen public understanding of global threats to freedom of expression as the first step to addressing those threats. Without such information, individuals are unable to make the informed decisions that are crucial for full participation in a free society. We raise awareness through our magazine, website and social media; monitoring and reporting of freedom of expression violations; and events and media.

**Support** Index supports censored writers, academics, artists and those facing censorship and threats to free expression, especially those operating under repressive regimes. We achieve this through the publication and promotion of original written material in our magazine and online, through legal interventions, and through our Freedom of Expression Awards.

**Influence** Index uses the expertise and information gathered in its award-winning magazine, in its online reporting, and through research and monitoring projects to campaign for change on specific freedom of expression issues. We achieve this through media campaigns, and by lobbying governments, multi-national organisations such as the Council of Europe and specific authorities on different issues. We work with other organisations to strengthen the power of our advocacy by sharing resources and information.

**Debate** Open debate is a central tenet of free expression and so Index actively promotes and leads discussion about the limits and concerns surrounding free expression, tackling subjects that are often ignored by mainstream media, or by taking discussions to different audiences.

#### Overview of the year 2021-22

2022 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first edition of Index on Censorship magazine and therefore this year was both a celebration as well as an opportunity to review our priorities and objectives.

As we moved on from the pandemic Index undertook a complete organizational review which enabled us to begin the process of rebuilding the professional staffing structures and explore more innovative approaches to partnership working. Index is now fully remote, with our staffing complement working across the nations and regions of the UK. Financially Index has managed to rebuild our reserves and is for the first time in a generation financially stable.

Index was also able to secure new funding streams for a range of policy areas including a workstream on exploring the impact of the Chinese Communist Party outside its geographic borders – Banned by Beijing and has run significant campaigns on digital rights both in the UK and across the EU.

#### ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

##### Magazine

Since its establishment in 1972, Index on Censorship magazine has published some of the greatest names in literature including Sir Salman Rushdie, Samuel Beckett, Nadine Gordimer, Mario Vargas Llosa, Hilary Mantel and Kurt Vonnegut. It also has published some of the greatest campaigning writers of our age from Vaclav Havel, Amartya Sen and Ariel Dorfman.

The magazine is available in more than 9,000 universities worldwide and had nearly a million article downloads in 2021/2.

##### Summer 2021: Whistleblowers: The lifeblood of democracy

The importance of the role of whistleblowers in exposing corruption and malpractice is well-established in law and rightly celebrated in a string of Hollywood movies from All the President's Men to Erin Brockovich. This edition of Index on Censorship highlights several prominent cases around the world. **Brittany Winner** writes exclusively about her sister, Reality, the former US intelligence specialist who leaked details of Russian interference in the 2016 American election. Martin Bright examined the case of the case of **Jonathan Taylor**, an oil industry whistleblower who revealed a multimillion-dollar bribe network stretching from Angola and Equatorial Guinea to Iraq and Brazil. Index associate editor Mark Frary interviews possibly the most famous whistleblower of them all, **Daniel Ellsberg**, on the 50th anniversary of the Pentagon Papers, which exposed the secret history of American involvement in Vietnam. The issue also contains an exclusive interview with playwright and long-time Index supporter **Tom Stoppard**. **Nerma**

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES (continued)

**Jelacic** writes about how misinformation has become part of how the world sees the Syrian conflict and veteran correspondent **Henry Macdonald** on attacks on press freedom in Northern Ireland.

#### **Autumn 2021:** Climate of fear: The silencing of the planet's indigenous peoples

The fight for the future of the planet and the fight for free speech are intertwined and interdependent. But, like any healthy ecological system, this relationship also needs constant nurturing. This is the aim of the Autumn issue of *Index on Censorship*, themed around the struggle for environmental justice with a particular focus on indigenous campaigners. In advance of the United Nations climate change conference (COP26), held in Glasgow in November, we concentrate on the cases of people whose voices are too easily forgotten in this debate. **Emily Brown** interviews Yvonne Weldon, the first aboriginal candidate for Mayor of Sydney, who is fighting on an environmental platform. Meanwhile, **Kaya Genç** examines the conspiracy theories and threats swirling around green campaigners in Turkey. **Issa Sikiti da Silva** exposes the openly hostile conditions faced by environmental activists in Uganda and **Beth Pitts** talks to two indigenous activists in Ecuador on declining populations and how they are using modern campaigning methods to save their culture and fight the extraction companies. The issue also contains an exclusive piece on press freedom by **Mikhail Khodorkovsky**, the Russian businessman jailed for nine years when he fell foul of the Putin regime and an interview with a second Putin opponent, the US financier **Bill Browder** by celebrated British journalist **John Sweeney**.

#### **Winter 2021:** Playing With Fire: How theatre is resisting the oppressor

Theatre was dark and silent for more than a year and is only just blinking into the light.

The pandemic represented a de facto form of censorship that took everyone by surprise – and played straight into the hands of authoritarian leaders. Around the world, stages were empty, actors out of work. And yet some still managed to keep the flame of theatre alive even during the worst of times. The Winter 2021 edition of *Index* is a tribute to them. The centrepiece of the magazine is a profile of long-time *Index* collaborators Belarus Free Theatre by the celebrated theatre writer and *Index* trustee **Kate Maltby**. We are delighted to publish Turkish playwright **Meltem Arıkan**, who found refuge in the UK after being forced out of her home country by the Erdogan regime. **Jonathan Maitland** discusses his experience of censorship and the limits of free speech on the stage in the UK. We also publish *Muzzled*, a new work by Iranian playwright **Reza Shirmarzi** written exclusively for *Index* as a response to Samuel Beckett's *Catastrophe*, published in the magazine in 1984.

#### **Spring 2022:** *Index* at 50: The battles won, lost and currently raging

In our anniversary special we reflect on words of our founding manifesto drafted by poet **Stephen Spender**. As Spender outlined, *Index* came into being after Pavel Litvinov, a Soviet physicist and dissident, called on the international community to help those being censored in the USSR. The year of our first publication was 1972. The Cold War was not yet a chapter in a history textbook, nor was apartheid. Spain, Portugal and Greece were still under military dictatorships. Mao Zedong was the leader of China. The challenges were great and our mission was to concern ourselves with all because censorship was not a one-sided issue. Since 1972 we have done our best to live up to the ideals of the founding manifesto. We have covered the wars, the revolutions and the protests. We have smuggled writings out of prison and published material banned elsewhere. We have provided a forum for critical debate and waded into the thorniest issues of the day. And we have dealt with the complexity of technology, both a blessing and a curse. To mark our half-century we have created a birthday issue. We have asked editors from the five decades to reflect on their time at *Index* and we've selected pieces from our archive to accompany them. We've picked articles that capture a moment in time and reflect our rich, varied history. At the same time, we've invited journalists around the globe to revisit articles published in our first year and consider them from the vantage point of 2022, such as **Susan McKay's** look at the contentious role of the BBC in Northern Ireland then and now. In our culture section, **Nick Harkaway** reimagines the early days of *Index*, a fantastically fun accompaniment to **Martin Bright's** deep-dive into the real *Index* origin story. Moving to today, Indian journalist **Aishwarya Jagani** brings you an alarming tale of women who found themselves on an auction site and we publish letters from prison by the Hong Kong media mogul **Jimmy Lai**. As for the future, **Sir Tom Stoppard** considers mob justice and its ramifications.

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES (continued)

**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 (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. 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.

#### 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. Over the last year Index has continued in our online efforts with more original analysis and comment commissioned directly for the website. We have revamped the output of our social media offering and have seen a steady increase in followers and engagement.

#### SUPPORT

Index supports individuals and groups facing censorship through directly commissioning the work of censored writers and artists who live in repressive regimes. We also shine a light on their experiences and seek to provide both practical support and solidarity.

A key aspect of our work continues to be driven by events in central and eastern Europe, in Belarus – one of our former staff, Andrei Aliaksandrau, remains detained (after more than 600 days in prison) for paying the fines of those protesting Lukashenko's stolen election. Arrested in January 2021, he now faces up to 15 years in prison for treason.

Index has also worked with partners to support Afghani dissidents after the re-emergence of the Taliban in 2021.

Our work to support individuals is complemented through our Freedom of Expression Awards, where we seek to work with those people who are targeted for defending free expression in their countries. Both in the year of their win and on an ongoing basis. Awards are offered in three categories: Arts, Campaigning 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. As part of the awards programme the winners are given a financial grant and we seek to highlight their cases in the public sphere.

#### 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
- exposing new and emergent threats
- providing contemporary analysis of comparable restrictions.

**Media** A core element of Index's work is to analyse and expose the impact of vexatious lawsuits on journalists across Europe. This is dominating our media advocacy work as we lead efforts for draft legislation in the EU, UK and the Republic of Ireland.

**Digital** Our work this year has continued to focus on the UK's proposals to regulate social media platforms to enhance user safety. Index is a leading member of the Legal to Type, Legal to Say campaign and is 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.

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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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.

**Soft Power** State sponsored censorship isn't always limited by a nation state's borders. Increasingly through a mix of soft, sharp, cultural and economic levers repressive regimes are seeking to shape their own narrative on a global platform in somewhat pernicious ways. Index has launched a new work programme to explore, in the first instance, how the Chinese Communist Party is seeking to leverage its power to censor people outside its borders. Our report on the Uyghur diaspora was launched in partnership with the Times.

#### DEBATE

Index has made it one of our primary goals to reach new audiences. Annually Index staff take part in more than 50 public events, including book launches, panel discussions, and performances of banned plays.

We host our own events, including our launches of our four magazines a year which feature lively speakers and interesting discussions that connect to magazine content.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday enabled us to engage in a series of events to explore different aspects of our history. The highlight of which was our birthday party which featured Jonathan Dimpleby in conversation with our chair Sir Trevor Phillips.

Much of the events programme has remained online due to the pandemic, but our level of output and engagement has remained at similar levels.

In addition to public events, Index is actively engaged in outreach through the media. We are regularly quoted by outlets such as the BBC, CNN, the LA Times, Eurozine, Guardian, Times, and Telegraph on freedom of expression issues and is increasingly becoming the go-to commentator on matters of freedom of expression.

#### PLANS FOR 2022/23 AND BEYOND: A NOTE FROM THE CEO

In March 2022 the world order was once again thrown into turmoil by the actions of Putin and his government. Russian's invasion of Ukraine happened just as Index was beginning to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and an insurgent Russia gave our celebrations and commentary a feel of Groundhog Day. However, if there was ever an event which highlights the ongoing need for Index on Censorship it was this.

In response to events in eastern and central Europe Index has refocused our engagement and begun the process of establishing what samizdat could look like in the twenty-first century. We're exploring with both low- and high-tech options to make sure that dissident voices are heard, and that freedom of expression remains a core human right. Our award-winning magazine will remain at the heart of this work.

Our work with political prisoners in Belarus will continue as a core element of this work. Building on our letters from Lukashenko's prisoners project we will continue to publish one letter a month from political prisoners currently detained by the regime. We are exploring options to feature these letters as part of an exhibition in 2023.

Our work exposing the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and their impact on freedom of expression issues continues apace, both with regards to issues within China and Hong Kong, as well as the CCP's actions outside their borders. I am truly delighted that we have secured a new funding stream to expand our work on those issues "Banned by Beijing" our work stream which investigates and exposes how the CCP is leveraging its power to stymie freedom of expression related to China outside its borders. One of our proudest moments of 2022 was the publication of Jimmy Lai's letters from prison in Hong Kong – in the coming months we hope to build on the project we have started with partners sending postcards to Jimmy.

Our ongoing organizational review to ensure that Index is fit for the coming battles ahead will be coming to public conclusion as we seek to launch our new website at the end of 2022. This should coincide with launch of our new Index – putting the Index back in Index on Censorship, seeking to fill a gap which ranks the broader threats to free speech around the world. We are working in collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University to develop a robust methodology and should launch at the end of the calendar year.

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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Our focus on SLAPP's continue to anchor our policy and advocacy workstreams. I am delighted that we have secured additional funding to build on our work with a new focus on the Republic of Ireland, with a conference to be held with Trinity College in the spring of 2023.

The Freedom of Expression awards remain an annual highlight, as well as our main fundraising event of the year. We changed the format dramatically in 2021 and will build on it in 2022. Ensuring that the event focuses on the support provided to our winners rather ensuring their physical presence at the event.

On a personal note, I want to thank both our board of Trustees and our professional staff whose collective efforts have enabled us to achieve so much together in name of freedom of expression.

As you can tell we have ambitious plans and look forward to working with you to make sure we stay a Voice for the Persecuted.

#### **Ruth Smeeth**

#### FUNDING

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 of the following during the year:

Arts Council England

Clifford Chance

Edwardian Hotels

The Elaine and David Potter Foundation

Facebook

Fritt Ord

Google

Hachette UK

Human Rights House

Justice For Journalists Foundation

Liverpool John Moores University

Kate Maltby

New Philanthropy Capital

Open Society Foundation

Profile Books

Sage Publications

Sky UK

Swedish Lottery

The Times & Sunday Times

Twitter

and various individuals who have supported the organisation through Index Champions or Index Advocates membership, or through subscription to the magazine.

The charity is a member of the Fundraising Regulator and has not received any complaints about our practices. It does not employ third-party fundraising agencies, nor does it directly court the general public.

#### **Fundraising**

The financial year 2021-22 saw total income rise from £811,132 to £1,136,618, mainly accounted for by a new grant from Human Rights House, a second grant from Google and an increased donation from Clifford Chance. The Armitage Foundation (New Philanthropy Capital) renewed their funding to us for a further three years and we received renewed funding from The David and Elaine Potter Foundation, Open Society Foundation, Arts Council England and Wales and Fritt Ord. After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we were once again able to host our annual Freedom of Expression Awards fundraising evening, which brought in just under £50,000 in sponsorship.

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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The charity's income rose from £601,664 2020-21 to £840,240, largely due to project funding for our charitable activities. It should be noted that our individual giving fell from £44,000 to £25,230. The company's income rose from £227,000 2020-21 to £296,380, largely due to the second grant from Google.

At the date of these accounts, much of the above core funding has been renewed.

#### **Financial Report and going concern**

The Trustees report the financial performance for the year just past represented an upswing on the previous year's own strong financial performance and achieved both its goals of taking the company out of a negative reserves position and exceeding the consolidated reserves target of three months' worth of operating costs by the year end.

Income was up on previous year from £811,132 to £1,136,618. The consolidated surplus has risen from £31,821 to £166,326, with both entities now in a positive reserves position; the company has a reserve of £49,802, while the charity's reserves have risen from £71,272 to £116,522.

Our costs of raising funds was slightly up on previous year, from £262,035 to £270,123. This was largely due to being able to stage our annual Index on Censorship Awards' fundraiser which we had not been able to do for two years due to the pandemic and the costs associated with that. Our project and programme work expanded considerably, from £194,752 to £537,540, but this was all funded by donors.

Group staff costs were down on the previous year, from £346,961 to £335,289. This is due to there being no redundancy costs within the financial year. The organization operates with eight staff, two of whom are part time. This is budgeted to increase in the next financial year. We also employ researchers on fixed, short-term contracts throughout the year.

Governance costs have risen from £14,680 to £16,226, due to increased audit costs. Office costs were up by £3,000 due to the costs of office closure as we move to a fully remote organization and such costs are expected to fall quite considerably next year. On top of this was the disposal of fixed assets of just under £10,000, again due to going fully remote in our work. Also, we started and will continue using social media consultants to disseminate our work into the digital sphere.

#### **Reserves policy**

The reserves policy has been established by the Index board, with the desired level of reserves being based on a consideration of at-risk funding. The board feel this represents the most and measurable way of arriving at a reserves target. The target arrived at was £123,000 of unrestricted funds, which equates to three months operating costs at the current level (£41,000 per month). The trustees are pleased to report that this target has been exceeded, with a reserves position at the end of the year of £166,326. A recalculation of the reserves level would be in order in 2022 to adjust for the organisation now working fully remotely with significantly reduced overheads costs, but also acknowledging increased staff costs going ahead.

The level of unrestricted funds is £166,326

The level of restricted funds is £0.

There are no designated or endowment funds.

#### **Public Benefit Statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees ensure that this purpose is carried out by the performance of services valued by the public both in the UK and internationally.

Both forms of editorial content (online and print) offer the highest quality of commissioned journalism and analysis, providing viewpoints from all parts of the spectrum of any free expression debate. Our expert editorial filter of censorship issues can be used to help those interested in free expression, find contextualised and verified information in support of free speech. We augment the news, picking the most important and most interesting free expression stories and pushing them out to a wider audience. The interest shown by the public in several of the current debates around free expression throughout all media has been particularly well served by the charity. Index has been at the forefront of many of such debates, able to deliver them in accessible form, through editorial content and events showcasing key figures from relevant

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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fields and disciplines. We also have extended geographical access to our debates through podcasting and video recordings available through our website and social media digital platforms. These reflect two of our objectives to inform and to encourage debate. We have continued post-pandemic to conduct events online which are geographically open to audiences worldwide, as against in-person events which realistically are limited to local audiences.

The research and articles published in Index on Censorship magazine are of direct relevance to specialist professionals in law, media and academia, but they also serve to deepen the knowledge and advance learning of the broader public, in the understanding and analysis of human rights. Extracts from the magazine continue to be offered for free on our website, while the entire archive from years previous to the current one are available for free online. Increasing social media followers and web viewing figures attest to the widening of our audience. We have continued to support media practitioners with our guidelines for operating in difficult media environments, be it under repressive regimes or individuals and corporations who seek to 'chill' free speech.

Index continues to bring material to under-represented communities in the freedom of expression debate, and particularly expanding its reach towards greater numbers of young people and people involved in education. As part of this initiative we work closely with several UK and international universities and offer several research roles for graduates and post-graduate.

In order to pursue our work in accordance with our mission and public benefit statements, we have a legitimate interest in holding and processing the data of both individuals and organisations.

### Governance and Management

#### Trustee Board

Trustees serve for a period of five years. Existing Trustees select members of the Trustee Board. Currently recruitment has occurred through personal recommendation and word of mouth. Rules and guidelines published by the Charity Commission on the responsibilities of being a Trustee are provided to all new Trustees. In addition, new Trustees are inducted in the charity by the Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees.

Every effort is made to ensure that all specialist areas of the Charity's operation are represented. Candidates that strengthen the Board are always considered, with no upper limit on the number of Trustees. Trustees meet four times a year to review strategy, risk and performance and to approve the operating plans and budgets. The majority of Trustee meetings take place at Writers and Scholars Trust's offices, enabling the Trustees to meet other members of staff on a regular basis.

Responsibility for strategy, planning and the day-to-day management of operations is delegated to a management team led by the Chief Executive. Formal reporting by the Chief Executive takes place in writing a week prior to each Trustee meeting. The key issues arising from this report and any other matters are then discussed in detail at the Trustee meeting. Minutes are then circulated, within seven days, for approval at the subsequent Trustee meeting. In addition the Treasurer meets monthly with the Head of Finance and quarterly the Chief Executive joins these meetings. The Treasurer acts as a check on financial best practice and oversees financial matters where segregation of duties are not possible due to the relative small size of the staff.

The pay of the senior management team ('key management personnel') and all staff are regularly reviewed and where there are increases these are in line with average earnings and any cost of living adjustment. In view of the nature of the charity, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other charities. The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles in equivalent sized charities

#### Risk Review

With a full risk register in place, throughout the year the Trustees consider the top five or ten risks anticipated or actually faced in the year, in terms of likelihood, impact, mitigations and responsibility. These are then added to the risk register as an update. The Trustees are satisfied that systems have been developed and are in place to mitigate identified risks to a satisfactory level. The last risk review was carried out by the Trustees in March 2022.

The issues considered were as follows:

1) Cash assets and fundraising. As the organisation has attained its reserves status, to minimise risk under the government's Financial Services Compensation Scheme, we have spread our funds across three different financial institutions. As regards fundraising, the organisation has contracted pro-bono with

## **WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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consultants to prepare guidelines for acceptance of funds from donors and the maximum percentage of total funding supplied by any one donor.

2) Cyber Security. With remote working, it becomes ever important to streamline our cyber programmes and security to ensure we are proceeding with robust working habits regarding our technology. We have increased personal cyber security for all staff's emailing.

3) Libel Protection. We have bespoke insurance against being sued for libel and worked closely with our insurers and their lawyers to see off two potential instances without going to court or making any settlement. The process of both showed how robust the structures we have in place are in treating potentially libel material. The Trustees are putting together a pool of libel lawyers who we can call on so enable us to reach a point where every single article we publish in the magazine or online will be checked for libel.

4) Partnership disbursement grants. Some of the partners we work with operate in very difficult work environments and it behoves us to negotiate with donors as to what is realistic about the reporting these partners can provide on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Management**

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- A strategic plan and annual budget overseen by the Trustees
- Regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, non-financial performance indicators and benchmarking reviews
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- Identification and management of risk as above

#### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and its financial activities for the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ascertain the financial position of the Charity and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees confirm that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware. They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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**POWERS AND RESTRICTIONS**

The Trustees have absolute discretion to decide which of the Trust's purposes to forward, and no limitations on the means they adopt to do so. In particular they have complete discretion to invest money as they wish and are therefore not bound by the provisions of the Trustee Investment Act.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips Chair  
Chair**

**Date: 15 September 2022**

## **WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

### **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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##### **Status**

The Writers and Scholars Educational Trust is a registered charity, number 325003, constituted by the Trust Deed dated 25 March 1971. In June 2016 the charity was converted into the status of a corporate trustee, WSET Trustee Ltd, company registered number 10188386. The Trustees of WSET resigned on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and were immediately appointed as Directors of the corporate trustee WSET Trustee Ltd.

The directors of WSET Trustee Ltd are:

Trevor Phillips (Chair)  
Sarah Sands  
Elaine Potter resigned 07/10/2021  
Kate Maltby  
James Goode (Treasurer)  
Andrew Franklin

##### **Management**

Ruth Smeeth – Chief Executive  
David Sewell – Finance Director  
Jemimah Steinfeld – Head of Content

##### **The principal address and contact details**

86-90 Paul Street  
London  
EC2A 4NE

E-Mail: [ceo@indexoncensorship.org](mailto:ceo@indexoncensorship.org)  
Website : [www.indexoncensorship.org](http://www.indexoncensorship.org)

##### **Auditors:**

Haysmacintyre LLP, 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1AG

##### **Bankers:**

Triodos Bank NV, Brunel House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5A

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Writers and Scholars Educational Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Charity Balance Sheets, Statement of Consolidated Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of the group's net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the parent charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST (continued)

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#### **Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 13 and 14, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations is related to regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in certain accounting estimates and judgements such as the income recognition policy. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with appropriate regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Review of minutes of meetings to identify instances of fraud;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST (continued)

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#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Haysmacintyre LLP*

**Haysmacintyre LLP**

Statutory Auditor

Date: 27 September 2022

10 Queen Street Place  
London  
EC4R 1AG

haysmacintyre is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
<b>Donations &amp; legacies</b>	2	384,059	-	384,059	422,294
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Publishing fees & royalties	3	114,264	-	114,264	111,048
Other income from charitable activities	3	56,599	533,117	589,716	277,760
<b>Other trading activities</b>					
Events income	3	48,500	-	48,500	-
<b>Investments Income</b>		79		79	30
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>603,501</u>	<u>533,117</u>	<u>1,136,618</u>	<u>811,132</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
<b>Raising funds</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	270,123	-	270,123	262,035
Fundraising activities	4	3,962	-	3,962	12
<b>Charitable activities</b>	4	194,911	533,117	728,028	402,521
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>468,996</u>	<u>533,117</u>	<u>1,002,113</u>	<u>664,568</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		134,505	-	134,505	146,564
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		31,821	-	31,821	(114,743)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>166,326</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,326</u>	<u>31,821</u>

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued in the year.

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on page 18 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST****GROUP AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEETS****AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**

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		<b>Group</b>		<b>Charity</b>	
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	7	1,057	11,577	-	-
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	8	59,270	35,166	27,209	35,211
Cash at bank and in hand		292,303	149,444	165,900	120,814
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
		351,573	184,610	193,109	156,025
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts</b>					
falling due within one year	9	(186,304)	(164,366)	(76,587)	(84,753)
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Net current assets		165,269	20,244	116,522	71,272
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>166,326</u>	<u>31,821</u>	<u>116,522</u>	<u>71,272</u>
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted income funds	10	166,326	31,821	116,522	71,272
Restricted income funds	11	-	-	-	-
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>166,326</u>	<u>31,821</u>	<u>116,522</u>	<u>71,272</u>
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips**  
**Chair**

**Date: 15 September 2022**

The notes on page 18 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities (see below)	143,725	115,545
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Purchase of fixed assets	(866)	(112)
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(866)</b>	<b>(112)</b>
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>		
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>142,859</b>	<b>115,433</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	149,444	34,011
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>292,303</b>	<b>149,444</b>

**RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Net (expenditure) for the reporting year (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	<b>134,505</b>	<b>146,563</b>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	1,508	4,400
Increase in debtors	(24,103)	(368)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	21,938	(35,050)
Loss on disposal assets	9,878	-
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<b>143,725</b>	<b>115,545</b>

**ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT**

	At 1 April 2021	Cash flows	Other non- cash changes	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Cash and bank	149,444	142,859		292,303

# WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of financial statements is as follows:

#### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2015) (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2021), and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Writers and Scholars Educational Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

#### **Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The Group has recorded a surplus in the year of £134,505 with overall funds in surplus by £166,326. In the prior year the charity has taken the opportunity to restructure the organisation. This has resulted in less reliance on specific projects with fewer staff being required with a redundancy having taken place and other staff not being replaced. A cost cutting exercise has also been undertaken resulting in the charity giving up its office. Forecast budgets and cash flows have been prepared for the period to 30 September 2023. These forecasts indicate that the group has sufficient cash to continue its operations for the foreseeable future. The trustees consider there to be no material uncertainties relating to going concern.

As a result of the above, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which the trustees consider to be appropriate.

#### **Basis of consolidation**

The group financial statements consolidate those of the charity and its subsidiary company, Writers and Scholars International Limited (“the Company”) drawn up to 31 March 2022. Surpluses or deficits on intra-group transactions are eliminated in full.

Results of the company which engages in activities similar to those of the charity are consolidated on a line-by-line basis in the SOFA and balance sheet.

#### **Fixed assets**

Fixed assets are recorded at cost. Assets acquired with a value of less than £100 are not capitalised but are written off as revenue expenditure.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write down the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives as follows:

Computers	25% straight line
Fixtures & Fittings	10% straight line

#### **Income recognition**

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably.

Income from grants and fees is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those

# WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Where income is received in advance of its recognition it is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income being received the income is accrued.

#### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred, inclusive of VAT, which cannot be recovered.

All expenditure has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the following categories:

Charitable Activities – Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to achieving the charitable objectives of the charity, including the costs of disseminating information in support of charitable activities. These costs include staff costs, wholly or mainly attributable support costs and an apportionment of general overheads.

Governance costs – These comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to ensuring the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulations.

Staff costs are allocated by the trustees between direct charitable expenditure and support expenditure on the basis of time spent on these activities. Other costs are ascribed directly to the relevant heading.

#### **Pension costs**

Writers & Scholars Educational Trust operates a defined contributions scheme for the benefit of the employees. The assets of the Scheme are held independently from those of Writers & Scholars Educational Trust in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represents the contributions payable during the year.

#### **Operating lease agreements**

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against profits on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

#### **Restricted funds**

Where grants are to be spent in accordance with terms agreed with the funders, the income and related expenditure are shown as 'Restricted'. Any unspent restricted income at the year-end is deferred for spending to future years.

#### **Unrestricted funds**

Core income and such other income for which there are no restrictions on the way it can be spent are termed 'Unrestricted'. Such unspent income at the year-end is termed 'Unrestricted funds'.

#### **Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes bank accounts, cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

# WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### Estimation uncertainty

In the view of the trustees in applying the accounting policies adopted, no judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements nor do any estimates or assumptions made carry a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year.

#### Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basis financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

### 2. DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations	44,734	44,108
Grants:		
David & Elaine Potter Foundation	40,000	-
Fritt Ord	37,217	50,757
Google	114,086	50,000
Clifford Chance	83,000	100,500
John Armitage Charitable Trust	50,000	50,000
Twitter	10,000	-
Bequests	5,022	-
International Limited	-	115,978
Other Grants	-	10,851
	<u>384,059</u>	<u>422,294</u>

### 3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	Funds	Funds	£	£
	£	£		
Liverpool John Moores University	10,722	-	10,722	10,722
National Endowment for Democracy	-	419,695	419,695	121,963
Arts Council England	43,915	-	43,915	43,915
Swiss Philanthropy	-	-	-	-
Swedish Lottery	-	40,913	40,913	87,164
Publishing fees and royalties	114,264	-	114,264	111,048
Event income	48,500	-	48,500	-
Justice for Journalists Foundation	1,800	-	1,800	13,996
OSF Euroasia	-	72,509	72,509	-
CAPA	162	-	162	-
	<u>219,363</u>	<u>533,117</u>	<u>752,480</u>	<u>388,808</u>

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

<b>3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - 2021</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>	<b>2020 £</b>
Liverpool John Moores University	10,722	-	10,722	10,722
National Endowment for Democracy	121,963	-	121,963	58,664
Arts Council England	43,915	-	43,915	-
Swiss Philanthropy	-	-	-	39,219
Swedish Lottery	-	87,164	87,164	41,077
Publishing fees and royalties	111,048	-	111,048	107,559
Event income	-	-	-	13,593
Other direct income	13,996	-	13,996	-
	-	-	-	17,786
	<u>301,644</u>	<u>87,164</u>	<u>388,808</u>	<u>288,620</u>

<b>4. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE - 2022</b>	<b>Direct Costs £</b>	<b>Support Costs £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Charitable activities:				
Publications	91,758	98,730	190,488	207,769
Projects	499,530	38,010	537,540	194,752
	<u>591,288</u>	<u>136,740</u>	<u>728,028</u>	<u>402,521</u>
Raising funds – donations and legacies	78,195	191,928	270,123	262,035
- fundraising activities	3,962	-	3,962	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>673,445</u>	<u>328,668</u>	<u>1,002,113</u>	<u>664,568</u>

<b>ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE - 2021</b>	<b>Direct Costs £</b>	<b>Support Costs £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Charitable activities:			
Publications	97,726	110,044	207,769
Projects	171,098	23,654	194,752
	<u>268,824</u>	<u>133,698</u>	<u>402,521</u>
Raising funds – donations and legacies	85,912	176,122	262,035
- fundraising activities	12		12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>354,748</u>	<u>309,820</u>	<u>664,568</u>

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**SUPPORT COSTS CONSIST OF:**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs	203,048	198,298
Premises	34,394	56,583
Office and administration	28,692	25,418
Professional and consultancy	24,914	6,142
Currency exchange differences	-	409
Irrecoverable VAT	9,549	3,890
Depreciation	1,967	4,400
Loss on disposal of assets	9,878	-
Governance (see note 5)	16,226	14,680
	<u>328,668</u>	<u>309,820</u>

**5. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Auditor's remuneration	16,226	14,680
Other fees	-	-
Meeting expenses	-	-
	<u>16,226</u>	<u>14,680</u>

Other fees payable to the auditors amounted to £nil (2021: £nil)

No trustees received any remuneration (2021: £nil) and no trustees were reimbursed for travel costs (2021: £nil).

**6. EMPLOYEES**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Group staff costs were as follows:		
Wages and salaries	301,802	298,779
Redundancy cost	-	15,339
National insurance contributions	26,852	24,888
Pension contributions	6,635	7,955
	<u>335,289</u>	<u>346,961</u>

The average weekly number of employees during the year were as follows:

	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Charitable activities	7	7
Management and support	1	1
	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
Number of employees earning between £60,000 - £69,999	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Staff benefits paid to key management personnel amounted to £151,096 (2021 -£137,640).

WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

7. FIXED ASSETS	Fixtures and Fittings £	Computers £	Total £
<b>Group</b>			
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2021	18,470	26,799	45,269
Additions	-	866	866
Disposals	(18,251)	(24,566)	(42,817)
At 31 March 2022	<u>219</u>	<u>3,099</u>	<u>3,318</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2021	9,372	24,320	33,692
Charge for the year	136	1,372	1,508
Disposals	(9,479)	(23,460)	(32,939)
At 31 March 2022	<u>29</u>	<u>2,232</u>	<u>2,261</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 31 March 2022	<u>190</u>	<u>867</u>	<u>1,057</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>9,098</u>	<u>2,479</u>	<u>11,577</u>

8. DEBTORS	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	-	-	-	-
Prepayments	22,913	12,204	16,723	9,760
Accrued income	4,453	9,544	4,453	9,544
Other debtors	31,904	13,418	-	12,577
Due from Writers and Scholars Int'l Ltd	-	-	6,033	3,330
	<u>59,270</u>	<u>35,166</u>	<u>27,209</u>	<u>35,211</u>

9. CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Bank overdraft	209	348	-	-
Trade creditors	-	12,645	-	1,867
Other creditors	3,242	-	3,242	-
Taxation and social security	7,999	4,351	7,999	7,211
Accruals	29,116	33,400	13,074	13,962
Deferred income	145,738	113,622	52,272	61,713
Due to Writers and Scholars International Ltd	-	-	-	-
	<u>186,304</u>	<u>164,366</u>	<u>76,587</u>	<u>84,753</u>

WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

DEFERRED INCOME	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Brought forward	113,622	166,795	61,713	69,739
Released in the year	(113,622)	(166,795)	(61,713)	(69,739)
Deferred in the year	145,738	113,622	52,272	61,713
Carried forward	<u>145,738</u>	<u>113,622</u>	<u>52,272</u>	<u>61,713</u>

Deferred income relates to grant income received in advance for the next accounting period.

10. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS – GROUP – 2022	WSET £	WSIL £	TOTAL £
Balance brought forward	71,272	(39,451)	31,821
Net income	45,250	89,255	134,505
Balance carried forward	<u>116,522</u>	<u>49,804</u>	<u>166,326</u>

UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS – GROUP - 2021	WSET £	WSIL £	TOTAL £
Balance brought forward	(26,941)	(87,802)	(114,743)
Net income	98,213	48,351	146,564
Balance carried forward	<u>71,272</u>	<u>(39,451)</u>	<u>31,821</u>

11. RESTRICTED FUNDS - 2022	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Swedish Lottery	-	40,913	(40,913)	-
National Endowment for Democracy	-	419,695	(419,695)	-
OSF Euroasia	-	72,509	(72,509)	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>533,117</u>	<u>(533,117)</u>	<u>-</u>

RESTRICTED FUNDS - 2021	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Swedish Lottery	-	87,164	(87,164)	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>87,164</u>	<u>(87,164)</u>	<u>-</u>

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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#### 11. RESTRICTED FUNDS (Continued)

**Nature and purpose of each fund:**

Swedish Lottery – funds for combating legal threats and actions silencing journalists.

National Endowment for Democracy – funds for greater accessibility to digital means.

OSF Euroasia – funds for combating legal threats and actions silencing journalists.

#### 12. WRITERS AND SCHOLARS INTERNATIONAL LTD

This is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and is a subsidiary of the charity. It outsources the publication of the magazine Index on Censorship, which is the main outlet through which the Trust fulfils its charitable objectives. All activities of the company have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the SOFA.

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</b>		
Turnover	296,380	227,026
Cost of sales	(174,768)	(148,858)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Gross profit</b>	121,612	78,168
Overhead expenditure	(32,357)	(29,817)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>	89,255	48,351
Interest receivable	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the financial year</b>	89,255	48,351
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
<b>Fixed assets</b>	1,056	11,578
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Current assets</b>	164,496	31,914
<b>Creditors falling due within one year</b>	(115,750)	(82,945)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net current (liabilities)/assets</b>	49,802	(51,031)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>	49,802	(39,453)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**Transactions**

During the year expenditure of £54,687 (2021: £64,154) was recharged to Writers & Scholars International Limited by Writers & Scholars Educational Trust. At the balance sheet date the amount due from Writers & Scholars International Limited was £6,033 (2021: £3,330).

#### 13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The David and Elaine Potter Foundation made a grant of £36,000 (2021: £4,000) in the year, with £nil (2021: £nil) due to be received at the year end. Elaine Potter is a trustee of the charity. Kate Maltby, a trustee of the charity donated £3,250 to the charity in the year (2021: £11,193). Trevor Phillips, a trustee of the charity donated £3,030 to the charity in the year (2021: £nil). No other related parties have occurred in the year or prior year.

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****14. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – 2021**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2021 £</b>
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>			
<b>Donations &amp; legacies</b>	422,294	-	422,294
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Publishing fees & royalties	111,048	-	111,048
Other income from charitable activities	190,596	87,164	277,760
<b>Other trading activities</b>			
Events income	-	-	-
<b>Investments</b>	30	-	30
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>723,938</u>	<u>87,164</u>	<u>811,132</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>			
<b>Raising funds</b>			
Donations and legacies	262,035	-	262,035
Fundraising activities	12	-	12
<b>Charitable activities</b>	315,357	87,164	402,521
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>577,404</u>	<u>87,164</u>	<u>664,568</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	146,564	-	146,564
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	(114,743)	-	(114,743)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>31,821</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,821</u>

**WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 325003

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# Accounts

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**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**Charity Number: 325003**

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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# WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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The Trustees submit their annual report and the financial statements of the charity and group (consisting of Writers and Scholars Educational Trust and its subsidiary – Writers and scholars International Limited) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The Trustees have complied with statutory requirements and the requirements of the charity's Trust Deed, in preparing the financial statements

#### 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.

#### CHARITABLE PURPOSE OF WRITERS AND SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST (INDEX ON CENSORSHIP)

Our charitable deed states:

*'Such charitable purposes including the advancement and promotion by teaching, lecturing and publishing or disseminating in written or spoken form or otherwise as in the absolute discretion and opinion of the Trustees shall best advance and encourage education or other charitable purposes beneficial to the community in connection with the study of political, economic, social and natural sciences and the humanities and human rights, the study and promotion of knowledge of the British Constitution and the Constitutional Law of England and of the Universal Declaration Of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights and their application and of comparative studies with similar laws and conventions in other jurisdictions.'*

#### CHAIR'S STATEMENT

At the start of the 2020/21 financial year, with much of the world in turmoil it was far from certainty that Index on Censorship would be able to muster the resources and stability that would allow us to carry out the mission set by our founders half a century ago, of being a voice for the persecuted globally. Over time the size and complexity of that mission has increased in a way that few would have foreseen.

Both overt and covert attacks on journalists and artists increased worldwide. Authoritarian regimes in Belarus, China, Myanmar, and Nicaragua, to cite just a few examples, intensified their surveillance of citizens and repression of independent voices.

This was also the year in which the assault on free expression was brought close to home in the most vivid way possible, with the beheading of the French teacher, Samuel Paty in October 2020. Against the background of protest inspired by racial injustice and arguments about sex and gender, the need for compelling defence of free speech in democratic societies has become both more urgent and more difficult. The continuing development of social media as both a liberating medium and a channel of persecution has demanded novel approaches to the ethics of public discourse.

However, the Trustees have little doubt that the calm and informed voice projected by Index has been a vital moderating influence. Our advocacy for those in danger of being silenced by tyranny has not ceased. We remain determined to ensure the protection of diversity of opinion in an atmosphere of civility and respect. But none of this could happen without the means to deliver campaigns, our magazine and partnerships with other freedom of expression advocates and partners.

We were seen through this difficult year by the faith of our supporters and the commitment of our staff, for both of which we as a board are profoundly grateful. The fact that Index was able to continue its work highlighting and documenting the loss of freedoms owes much to the efforts and determination of our former CEO, Jodie Ginsberg and my predecessor as Chair, David Aaronovitch; the Board, would, I know, want our gratitude to be put on record.

We would also want to thank the Board members who stepped down, David Schlesinger and Kiri Kankhwende and extend a welcome to those who joined us, Andrew Franklin, Sarah Sands and our new Treasurer James Goode.

## **WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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Above all, the board would like to thank the professional staff, who shouldered the burden of doing more with fewer resources, often by going above and beyond anything that could reasonably be expected. I am particularly indebted to our new Chief Executive, Ruth Smeeth; her inspirational leadership and businesslike approach to rebuilding Index has been central to ensuring that we become once again, in our fiftieth year, the voice for the persecuted that our founders imagined we could be.

**Trevor Phillips**

#### **PLANS FOR 2021/22 AND BEYOND: A NOTE FROM THE CEO**

As the world emerges from the shadow of the Covid19 pandemic we are constantly being exposed to the realities of how dictators and tyrants have acted against their citizens when they thought the world was distracted. From Hong Kong to Belarus to Myanmar to Afghanistan and too many others to mention, people have been persecuted for demanding their liberal democratic rights to free expression. Our hearts have collectively been touched day-in, day-out, as we have reached out to try and support those who are so inspiring and so brave. Making sure that more people know of their struggles and providing that rare support - solidarity.

As part of our ongoing program and to mark our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday Index has undertaken a complete restructure and seeks to engage on the issues of free speech and free expression through the prism of our heritage - to be a voice for the persecuted. Telling the stories of people who are detained or censored by their governments and seeking to work with others to challenge the structural threats to free speech that new technologies and associated regulation are creating.

As part of this refresh of Index's work we are developing a new Index – putting the Index back in Index on Censorship, seeking to fill a gap which ranks the broader threats to free speech around the world.

2021 also marks the COP26 conference, as nation states negotiate a way forward to tackle the climate emergency Index has launched a new piece of work to explore how climate activists are being censored around the world – Climate of Fear.

To mark 12 months since stolen elections in Belarus we are also launching a new project – letters from Lukashenko's prisoners, publishing one a week from a political prisoners currently detained by the regime.

We will also be exploring the long-term impact of Covid19 and how some of the emergency regulations which impact free expression are outliving the pandemic.

In addition to our core work exposing the actions of repressive regimes and their impact on their domestic populations we are launching a new project #BannedbyBeijing exploring how the Chinese Government are using their soft power, outside their borders, to censor artists and academics.

As you can tell we have ambitious plans and look forward to working with you to make sure we stay a Voice for the Persecuted.

**Ruth Smeeth**

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### OUR AIMS

**Inform** Index seeks to broaden and deepen public understanding of global threats to freedom of expression as the first step to addressing those threats. Without such information, individuals are unable to make the informed decisions that are crucial for full participation in a free society. We raise awareness through our magazine, website and social media; monitoring and reporting of freedom of expression violations; and events and media.

**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 uses the expertise and information gathered in its award-winning magazine, in its online reporting, and through research and monitoring projects to campaign for change on specific freedom of expression issues. We achieve this through media campaigns, and by lobbying governments, multi-national organisations such as the Council of Europe and specific authorities on different issues. We work with other organisations to strengthen the power of our advocacy by sharing resources and information.

**Debate** Open debate is a central tenet of free expression and so Index actively promotes and leads discussion about the limits and concerns surrounding free expression, tackling subjects that are often ignored by mainstream media, or by taking discussions to different audiences. We will be launching a new debate forum in 2021 to lead and inform the discussion on free expression.

#### Overview of the year 2020-21

Index faced significant organisational challenges due to the impact of the Covid19 pandemic. Working remotely Index undertook a full staffing restructure, rebranded and undertook a full re-design of the magazine. In addition, we launched new projects including our Covid19 Disease Control – documenting new restrictions to free expression around the globe introduced under the cover of Covid. Additionally, we increased our work on vexatious lawsuits and on online regulation. We continued to provide personalised support to individuals facing censorship via our prestigious Freedom of Expression Awards Fellowship.

#### ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

##### INFORM

###### Magazine

Since its establishment in 1972, Index on Censorship magazine has published some of the greatest names in literature including Samuel Beckett, Nadine Gordimer, Mario Vargas Llosa, Hilary Mantel and Kurt Vonnegut. It also has published some of the greatest campaigning writers of our age from Vaclav Havel, Amartya Sen and Ariel Dorfman.

The magazine is available in more than 9,000 universities worldwide and more than 2,000 hard copies of the magazine were distributed at events globally during the year. One of the unexpected consequences of the pandemic is that online readership levels of the magazine are at an all time high.

###### Summer 2020: Private Lives

Just how much of our privacy might we give away - accidentally, on purpose or through force - in the battle against Covid-19? Tech journalist **Geoff White** looks at how drones are hovering overhead around the world, from China to the UK, to make sure we are abiding by quarantine and physical distancing. Just how up close and personal can they get? Less technical but just as sinister, **Issa Sikiti da Silva** reports from Uganda on government spies that are doing the same job as the drones, only they seem to be targeting political opposition. Meanwhile, people around the world are being encouraged to download contact tracing apps. That might be ok when the app has safeguarded privacy, but more often than not what is happening to data is not being spelt out throughout the world

###### Autumn 2020: The disappeared

When Hong Kong passed the National Security Law at the end of June, many things disappeared in the city overnight. Some were long-held principles of democracy and free speech; others were more tangible things, as **Oliver Farry** writes,

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES (continued)

like books on the protest movement, posters promoting an independent Hong Kong, and people who either fled the city or were arrested. But Hong Kong is not the only place in the world where things are disappearing. Across the border in China, **Rushan Abbas** does not know where her sister is, a Uighur who has vanished in China's vast network of concentration camps. In Europe, countless perish in the Mediterranean Sea, their graves unmarked, as **Alessio Perrone** investigates. Outside the special report we have a new short story from Lisa Appignanesi, we ask Donald Trump voters from 2016 whether he has listened to those "forgotten Americans" and a look at how street art has been used during Covid-19 for important political statements

##### Winter 2020: Masked by Covid

From the moment Chinese state media announced a novel coronavirus back in January, the whole world has been transfixed by news of Covid-19. News cycles that are almost exclusively on the virus has fed into the hands of dictators, who have not only used it as an excuse to clampdown on media freedoms, but also as a cover hoping in our distraction we won't speak up. Many stories that would otherwise have dominated headlines and angered the world have slipped through the cracks. Stories like the Nicaraguan leader pushing through a series of bills that will silence what little independent media is left. **Bianca Jagger** asks us why we haven't paid more attention. Stories like the Chinese government imposing Mandarin-Chinese language tuition on Inner Mongolian schools - a move with such grave implications for cultural autonomy that people have taken their lives. Stories like a new leader in Slovenia, who like Polish and Hungarian leaders is far-right and taking aim at journalists and minorities. With writing from people on the ground and area experts, we cover these stories in our special report. Outside the special report we have our very first debate on whether social media companies have a moral duty to ban anti-vax misinformation, the philosopher **John Gray** discusses whether John Stuart Mill has contributed to the culture wars, **Nick Holdstock** looks at the history of Xinjiang in China to shed light on the current atrocities there and in our culture section we publish poetry from Uighurs who have disappeared into the Xinjiang camps.

##### Spring 2020: China - A century of silencing dissent

In our newly redesigned magazine which sees the return of the Index Index, we explored the impact of 100 years of CCP rule in China given the context of a renewed crackdown on internal dissent and foreign journalists inside China. The centrepiece of our special report is a highly personal essay by Chinese-born British writer **Ma Jian**, who writes of his own teenage experience of the Great Famine – in which 45 million of his fellow citizens died – and his belief that the CCP and China are not one and the same. Also of huge importance is an interview by **Sarah Sands**, former editor of the Evening Standard and BBC Radio 4's Today programme, with Facebook vice-president **Nick Clegg** about how the company grapples with censorship issues.

**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 (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. 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.

##### 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. Over the last year Index has refocused our online efforts with more original analysis and comment commissioned directly for the website. We have revamped the output of our social media offering and have seen a steady increase in followers and engagement.

For the first time Index on Censorship went dark for 24 hours online – to honour the memory of Ruhollah Zam, a journalist executed in Iran for doing his job.

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES (continued)

##### SUPPORT

Index supports individuals and groups facing censorship through directly commissioning the work of censored writers and artists who live in repressive regimes. We also shine a light on their experiences and seek to provide both practical support and solidarity.

A key aspect of our work has related to Belarus – where one of our former staff, Andrei Aliaksandrau, has been detained for paying the fines of those protesting Lukashenko's stolen election. Arrested in January 2021, he now faces up to 15 years in prison for treason.

In addition to our core work Index also featured 6 dissidents as part of our end of year campaign, sending hundreds of messages of solidarity from our supporters to a range of human rights defenders detained by repressive regimes for their work in defending the right to free expression. They were:

- Golrokh Emrahimi Iraee, jailed for writing about [the practice of stoning in Iran](#);
- Hatice Duman, the former editor of the banned socialist newspaper *Atilım*, who has been in jail in Turkey since 2002;
- Khaled Drareni, jailed in Algeria for 'incitement to unarmed gathering' simply for covering the weekly HIRAK protests that are calling for political reform in the country;
- Loujain al-Hathloul, a [women's rights activist](#) known for her attempts to raise awareness of the ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia;
- Yuri Dmitriev, a historian being [silenced by Putin](#) in Russia for creating a memorial to the victims of Stalinist terror and facing fabricated sexual assault charges.
- Aasif Sultan, who was arrested in Kashmir after writing about [the death of Buhran Wani](#) has been under illegal detention without charge for more than 800 days.

This work is complemented through our Freedom of Expression Awards, where we seek to work with those people who are targeted for defending free expression in their countries.

Awards are offered in three categories: Arts, Campaigning 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, due to the pandemic our awards ceremony has been delayed until September 2021 and have been revamped.

##### 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
- exposing new and emergent threats

providing contemporary analysis of comparable restrictions

**Media** Index is undertaking an extensive project to analyse and expose the impact of vexatious lawsuits on journalists across Europe. This is dominating our media advocacy work as we have aspirations for a draft EU framework as well as seeking to raise the profile of the issue in the UK, which we are doing in partnership with the Foreign Policy Centre.

**Digital** Our work this year has continued to focus on the UK's proposals to regulate social media platforms to enhance user safety. Index is a leading member of the Legal to Type, Legal to Say campaign and is 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.

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES (continued)

##### DEBATE

Index has made it one of our primary goals to reach new audiences. Annually Index staff take part in more than 50 public events, including book launches, panel discussions, and performances of banned plays.

We host our own events, including our launches of our four magazines a year which feature lively speakers and interesting discussions that connect to magazine content.

Our events programme has moved online due to the pandemic, but our level of output and engagement has remained at similar levels.

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. As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary programme Index is also working collaboratively with Times Radio to hear directly from journalists and activists on the frontline of campaigns to protect and promote free speech.

##### FUNDING

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 of the following during the year:

Arts Council England  
Clifford Chance  
The John S Cohen Foundation  
Daily Mail  
Dropbox  
Edwardian Hotels  
The Elaine and David Potter Foundation  
Facebook  
Fritt Ord  
Google  
Justice For Journalists Foundation  
Liverpool John Moores University  
Kate Maltby  
New Philanthropy Capital  
Open Society Foundation  
Sage Publications  
Swedish Lottery  
Telegraph Media Group  
Twitter  
Wellesley College

and various individuals who have supported the organisation through Index Champions or Index Advocates membership, or through subscription to the magazine.

The charity is a member of the Fundraising Regulator and has not received any complaints about our practices. It does not employ third-party fundraising agencies, nor does it directly court the general public.

##### **Fundraising**

The financial year 2020-21 saw total income rise from £726,217 to £811,132 mainly accounted for by pandemic emergency funding streams from OSF (the company) and two from ACE (the charity). The Armitage Foundation (New Philanthropy Capital) was a new funder for us. We did not lose any of our regular funders and have several pending applications with recent funders which if successful, will fall into the next financial year. We received continued funding from the David and Elaine Potter Foundation, Fritt Ord, Google and Arts Council England.

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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With the emergency funding, the charity's income went up from £469,650 to £584,106. However, even with the extra OSF grant the company's income dropped from £256,565 to £227,026. This is largely explained by us not being able to hold the annual Freedom of Expression Awards with consequent loss of sponsorship income.

Although we would not anticipate further emergency funding into the new financial year, we have restructured the organization so as to significantly reduce our costs, including going to remote working without an office and subsequent costs, from Autumn 2021. At the date of these accounts, much of the above core funding has been renewed or even increased in the current financial year.

#### **Financial Report and going concern**

The Trustees report the financial performance for the year just past represented a huge upswing on the previous year and achieved its primary goal of taking the organisation out of a consolidated negative reserves position. While the charity now has a healthy level of unrestricted reserves once again, the company is still in a negative reserves position, albeit it at a far lower level than it brought forward from the previous year.

The charity made a surplus of £98,219, wiping out its negative reserves brought forward, to give us a level of reserves of £71,273. The company made a profit of £48,351 which still leaves it with losses carried forward of £39,453. The consolidated surplus for the year was £146,564 (compared with a consolidated loss last year of £160,596) and the consolidated reserves position at 31st March 2021 is £31,821 which represents nearly a month of operating (reserves target is 3 months of operating costs). The focus of the financial year 2021-22 will be on bringing the company out of its negative reserves position and to get as close to the full reserves target as possible. £17,558 of a disbursement grant was adjudged to not come into this financial year, but will be recognised in financial year 2021-22.

Staff costs were considerably reduced from £496,850 in 19-20, to £347,230. This reflects roles not being filled when staff left, particularly at senior management level and currently we operate with a staff payroll of 6 full timers, with 2 part-timers on 6-month contracts and two freelancers (we have checked the new IR35 tax regulations and our freelancers do not cause us any added expenditure for having to process tax and NI).

Overheads were down from £131,000 to £97,715, largely accounted for by remote working during the pandemic. We will be slashing this budget line once we go officeless in the Autumn, though there will be some costs of closing the office, disposing of assets and streamlining remote working which have been budgeted for this year.

#### **Reserves policy**

The reserves policy has been established by the Index board, with the desired level of reserves being based on a consideration of at-risk funding. The board feel this represents the most and measurable way of arriving at a reserves target. The target arrived at was £123,000 of unrestricted funds, which equates to three months operating costs at the current level (£41,000 per month). The trustees are pleased to report that the consolidated negative reserves position at the start of the year have been reversed this year and re-established reserves almost back at the level of one-third of the target which was the position two years ago. The level currently is £31,000. The aim for the forthcoming year is to get to at least two-thirds of the target, if not reach the full target. Additionally, a recalculation of the reserves level would be in order in 2021 once the organisation works remotely and reduces its overheads costs significantly.

The level of unrestricted funds is £31,821

The level of restricted funds is £0.

There are no designated or endowment funds.

#### **Public Benefit Statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees ensure that this purpose is carried out by the performance of services valued by the public both in the UK and internationally.

Both forms of editorial content (online and print) offer the highest quality of commissioned journalism and analysis, providing viewpoints from all parts of the spectrum of any free expression debate. Our expert editorial filter of censorship issues can be used to help those interested in free expression, find contextualised and verified information in support of free speech. We augment the news, picking the most important and most interesting free expression stories and pushing them out to a wider audience. The interest shown by the public in several of the current debates around free expression throughout all media has been particularly well served by the charity. Index has been at the forefront of many of such debates, able to deliver them in accessible form, through editorial content and events showcasing key figures from relevant

## **WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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fields and disciplines. We also have extended geographical access to our debates through podcasting and video recordings available through our website and social media digital platforms. These reflect two of our objectives to inform and to encourage debate.

The research and articles published in Index on Censorship magazine are of direct relevance to specialist professionals in law, media and academia, but they also serve to deepen the knowledge and advance learning of the broader public, in the understanding and analysis of human rights. Extracts from the magazine continue to be offered for free on our website, while the entire archive from years previous to the current one are available for free online. Increasing social media followers and web viewing figures attest to the widening of our audience. This year we maintained our specialist "Journalists' Toolbox" for working in challenging environments, which we published in English, Spanish, Arabic and Russian and available for free online.

Index continues to bring material to under-represented communities in the freedom of expression debate, and particularly expanding its reach towards greater numbers of young people and people involved in education. As part of this initiative we host a Youth Advisory Board with new members every six months, so that we can consult on, and be led by, the members as to their requirements in the free expression realm as it affects young people and thus tailor our approach to meet these needs. We also ran a pilot scheme here in the UK and the US, mentoring and giving media training for spokespeople in under-represented communities to enable them to engage in public debate. We have worked directly with a number of youth and educational agencies and be able to put different groups in contact with one another to share knowledge and we have begun to extend this network globally. Index also works closely with several UK and international universities.

Index supports key professionals and decision makers in the arts sector through case studies and conferences, helping them to protect and promote freedom of expression to their own audiences. We had previously produced five free law packs to equip such professionals with a guide to help them continue to exhibit and produce controversial art in full knowledge of the law and responsibilities to artists, their employees and the public. These were updated within the year to reflect new case studies and changes in the law. With our Arts Council funding, we have developed a training programme for arts' institutions to be able to analyse risk more sympathetically in consideration of controversial art.

In order to pursue our work in accordance with our mission and public benefit statements, we have a legitimate interest in holding and processing the data of both individuals and organisations.

#### **Governance and Management**

##### **Trustee Board**

Trustees serve for a period of five years. Existing Trustees select members of the Trustee Board. Currently recruitment has occurred through personal recommendation and word of mouth. Rules and guidelines published by the Charity Commission on the responsibilities of being a Trustee are provided to all new Trustees. In addition, new Trustees are inducted in the charity by the Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees.

Every effort is made to ensure that all specialist areas of the Charity's operation are represented. Candidates that strengthen the Board are always considered, with no upper limit on the number of Trustees. Trustees meet four times a year to review strategy, risk and performance and to approve the operating plans and budgets. The majority of Trustee meetings take place at Writers and Scholars Trust's offices, enabling the Trustees to meet other members of staff on a regular basis.

Responsibility for strategy, planning and the day-to-day management of operations is delegated to a management team led by the Chief Executive. Formal reporting by the Chief Executive takes place in writing two weeks prior to each Trustee meeting. The key issues arising from this report and any other matters are then discussed in detail at the Trustee meeting. Minutes are then circulated, within seven days, for approval at the subsequent Trustee meeting.

The pay of the senior management team ('key management personnel') and all staff are regularly reviewed and where there are increases these are in line with average earnings and any cost of living adjustment. In view of the nature of the charity, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other charities. The remuneration benchmark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles in equivalent sized charities

##### **Risk Review**

With a full risk register in place, throughout the year the Trustees consider the top five or ten risks anticipated or actually faced in the year, in terms of likelihood, impact, mitigations and responsibility. These are then added to the risk register as an update. The Trustees are satisfied that systems have been developed and are in place to mitigate identified risks to a

## **WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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satisfactory level. The last risk review was carried out by the Trustees in December 2020 and reported in last year's Trustees' Report accompanying the accounts. The Trustees are satisfied that no further or new risks have arisen up until June 2021. The next risk review is scheduled for December 2021.

#### **Management**

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- A strategic plan and annual budget overseen by the Trustees
- Regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results, variance from budgets, non-financial performance indicators and benchmarking reviews
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- Identification and management of risk as above

#### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and its financial activities for the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ascertain the financial position of the Charity and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware. They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

#### **POWERS AND RESTRICTIONS**

The Trustees have absolute discretion to decide which of the Trust's purposes to forward, and no limitations on the means they adopt to do so. In particular they have complete discretion to invest money as they wish and are therefore not bound by the provisions of the Trustee Investment Act.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips Chair**  
**Chair**

**Date: 23 September 2021**

## **WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

### **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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##### **Status**

The Writers and Scholars Educational Trust is a registered charity, number 325003, constituted by the Trust Deed dated 25 March 1971. In June 2016 the charity was converted into the status of a corporate trustee, WSET Trustee Ltd, company registered number 10188386. The Trustees of WSET resigned on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and were immediately appointed as Directors of the corporate trustee WSET Trustee Ltd.

The directors of WSET Trustee Ltd are:

Trevor Phillips (Chair)

David Aaronovitch resigned 08/10/2020

Sarah Sands appointed 08/10/2020

Elaine Potter

David Schlesinger resigned 17/03/21

Kate Maltby

Kiri Kankhwende resigned 17/03/2021

James Goode (Treasurer) appointed 07/01/2021

Andrew Franklin appointed 07/01/2021

##### **Management**

Ruth Smeeth – Chief Executive

David Sewell – Finance Director

Jemimah Steinfeld – Head of Content

##### **The principal address and contact details**

Autograph Building

1 Rivington Place

London

EC2A 3BA

Telephone: 0203 848 9820

E-Mail: [ceo@indexoncensorship.org](mailto:ceo@indexoncensorship.org)

##### **Auditors:**

Haysmacintyre LLP, 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1AG

##### **Bankers:**

Triodos Bank NV, Brunel House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5A

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Writers and Scholars Educational Trust for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Charity Balance Sheets, Statement of Consolidated Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of the group's net movement in funds for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the parent charity financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### **Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 13 and 14, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST (continued)

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control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations is related to regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in certain accounting estimates and judgements such as the income recognition policy. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with appropriate regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Review of minutes of meetings to identify instances of fraud;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report

#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Haysmacintyre LLP*

**Haysmacintyre LLP**  
Statutory Auditor

10 Queen Street Place  
London  
EC4R 1AG

haysmacintyre is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

**Date:** 29th September 2021

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
<b>Donations &amp; legacies</b>	2	422,294	-	422,294	437,580
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Publishing fees & royalties	3	111,048	0	111,048	107,559
Other income from charitable activities	3	190,596	87,164	277,760	167,468
<b>Other trading activities</b>					
Events income	3	-	-	-	13,593
<b>Investments Income</b>		30	-	30	17
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>723,938</u>	<u>87,164</u>	<u>811,132</u>	<u>726,217</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
<b>Raising funds</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	262,035	-	262,035	306,876
Fundraising activities	4	12	-	12	14,817
<b>Charitable activities</b>	4	<u>315,357</u>	<u>87,164</u>	<u>402,521</u>	<u>565,121</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>577,404</u>	<u>87,164</u>	<u>664,568</u>	<u>886,814</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>					
		146,564	-	146,564	(160,597)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		(114,743)	-	(114,743)	45,854
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>31,821</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>31,821</u></u>	<u><u>(114,743)</u></u>

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued in the year.

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on page 18 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST****GROUP AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEETS****AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

		<b>Group</b>		<b>Charity</b>	
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	7	11,577	15,865	-	-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	8	35,166	34,798	35,211	30,071
Cash at bank and in hand		149,444	34,011	120,814	31,319
		184,610	68,809	156,025	61,390
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	9	(164,366)	(199,417)	(84,753)	(88,331)
Net current assets		20,244	(130,608)	71,272	(26,941)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		31,821	(114,743)	71,272	(26,941)
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted income funds	10	31,821	(114,743)	71,272	(26,941)
Restricted income funds	11	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		31,821	(114,743)	71,272	(26,941)

The accounts were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue and signed on their behalf by:

*Trevor Phillips*

**Trevor Phillips**  
Chair

**Date: 23 September 2021**

The notes on page 18 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities (see below)	115,545	36,059
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Purchase of fixed assets	(112)	(7,467)
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(112)</b>	<b>(7,467)</b>
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>		
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>115,433</b>	<b>28,592</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	34,011	5,419
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>149,444</b>	<b>34,011</b>

**RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Net (expenditure) for the reporting year (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	<b>146,563</b>	<b>(160,597)</b>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	4,400	3,708
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(368)	147,318
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(35,050)	45,630
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<b>115,545</b>	<b>36,059</b>

**ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT**

	At 1 April 2020	Cash flows	Other non- cash changes	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
Cash and bank	34,011	115,433		149,444

# WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of financial statements is as follows:

##### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2015) (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2020), and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Writers and Scholars Educational Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

##### **Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The Group has recorded a surplus in the year of £146,564 with overall funds in surplus by £31,821. Since the year-end and following the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the charity has taken the opportunity to restructure the organisation. This has resulted in less reliance on specific projects with fewer staff being required with a redundancy having taken place and other staff not being replaced. A cost cutting exercise has also been undertaken resulting in the charity giving up its office in the near future. A number of emergency funding grants have been secured during the year which has helped to build up funds. Forecast budgets and cash flows have been prepared for the period to 31 October 2022. These forecasts indicate that the group has sufficient cash to continue its operations for the foreseeable future. The trustees consider there to be no material uncertainties relating to going concern.

As a result of the above, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which the trustees consider to be appropriate.

##### **Basis of consolidation**

The group financial statements consolidate those of the charity and its subsidiary company, Writers and Scholars International Limited (“the Company”) drawn up to 31 March 2021. Surpluses or deficits on intra-group transactions are eliminated in full.

Results of the company which engages in activities similar to those of the charity are consolidated on a line-by-line basis in the SOFA and balance sheet.

##### **Fixed assets**

Fixed assets are recorded at cost. Assets acquired with a value of less than £100 are not capitalised but are written off as revenue expenditure.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write down the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives as follows:

Computers	25% straight line
Fixtures & Fittings	10% straight line

##### **Income recognition**

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably.

Income from grants and fees is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those

# WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Where income is received in advance of its recognition it is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income being received the income is accrued.

#### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred, inclusive of VAT, which cannot be recovered.

All expenditure has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the following categories:

Charitable Activities – Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to achieving the charitable objectives of the charity, including the costs of disseminating information in support of charitable activities. These costs include staff costs, wholly or mainly attributable support costs and an apportionment of general overheads.

Governance costs – These comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly attributable to ensuring the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulations.

Staff costs are allocated by the trustees between direct charitable expenditure and support expenditure on the basis of time spent on these activities. Other costs are ascribed directly to the relevant heading.

#### **Pension costs**

Writers & Scholars Educational Trust operates a defined contributions scheme for the benefit of the employees. The assets of the Scheme are held independently from those of Writers & Scholars Educational Trust in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represents the contributions payable during the year.

#### **Operating lease agreements**

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against profits on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

#### **Restricted funds**

Where grants are to be spent in accordance with terms agreed with the funders, the income and related expenditure are shown as 'Restricted'. Any unspent restricted income at the year-end is deferred for spending to future years.

#### **Unrestricted funds**

Core income and such other income for which there are no restrictions on the way it can be spent are termed 'Unrestricted'. Such unspent income at the year-end is termed 'Unrestricted funds'.

#### **Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes bank accounts, cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

# WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### Estimation uncertainty

In the view of the trustees in applying the accounting policies adopted, no judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements nor do any estimates or assumptions made carry a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year.

#### Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basis financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

### 2. DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations	44,108	96,270
Grants:		
David & Elaine Potter Foundation	-	36,000
Fritt Ord	50,757	51,980
Google	50,000	50,000
Arts Council England	100,500	43,122
Armitage Foundation	50,000	-
Other grants	10,951	34,005
Grants received by Writers & Scholars International Limited	115,978	126,203
	<u>422,294</u>	<u>£437,580</u>

### 3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Liverpool John Moores University	10,722	-	10,722	10,722
National Endowment for Democracy	121,963	-	121,963	58,664
Arts Council England	43,915	-	43,915	-
Swiss Philanthropy	-	-	-	39,219
Swedish Lottery	-	87,164	87,164	41,077
Publishing fees and royalties	111,048	-	111,048	107,559
Event income	-	-	-	13,593
Justice for Journalists Foundation	13,996	-	13,996	-
Other direct income	-	-	-	17,786
	<u>301,644</u>	<u>87,164</u>	<u>388,808</u>	<u>288,620</u>

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

<b>3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - 2020</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>2020 £</b>	<b>2019 £</b>
Liverpool John Moores University	10,722	-	10,722	9,832
National Endowment for Democracy	58,664	-	58,664	81,417
Arts Council England	-	-	-	45,000
Swiss Philanthropy	39,219	-	39,219	-
Swedish Lottery	41,077	-	41,077	-
Publishing fees and royalties	107,559	-	107,559	104,627
Event income	13,593	-	13,593	74,519
Other direct income	17,786	-	17,786	9,932
	<u>288,620</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>£288,620</u>	<u>£325,327</u>

<b>4. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE - 2021</b>	<b>Direct Costs £</b>	<b>Support Costs £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>
Charitable activities:				
Publications	97,726	110,044	207,769	261,461
Projects	171,098	23,654	194,752	303,660
	<u>268,824</u>	<u>133,698</u>	<u>402,521</u>	<u>565,121</u>
Raising funds – donations and legacies	85,912	176,122	262,035	306,876
- fundraising activities	12	-	12	14,817
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>354,748</u>	<u>309,820</u>	<u>664,568</u>	<u>£886,814</u>

<b>ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE - 2020</b>	<b>Direct Costs £</b>	<b>Support Costs £</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>
Charitable activities:			
Publications	132,511	128,950	261,461
Projects	216,942	86,718	303,660
	<u>349,453</u>	<u>215,668</u>	<u>565,121</u>
Raising funds – donations and legacies	117,381	189,495	306,876
- fundraising activities	14,817	-	14,817
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>£481,651</u>	<u>£405,164</u>	<u>£886,813</u>

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**SUPPORT COSTS CONSIST OF:**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs	198,298	251,129
Premises	56,583	56,968
Office and administration	25,418	66,433
Professional and consultancy	6,142	6,822
Currency exchange differences	409	1,561
Irrecoverable VAT	3,890	5,690
Depreciation	4,400	3,707
Governance (see note 5)	14,680	12,854
	<u>309,820</u>	<u>405,164</u>

**5. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Auditor's remuneration	14,680	11,850
Other fees	-	951
Meeting expenses	-	53
	<u>14,680</u>	<u>12,854</u>

No trustees received any remuneration (2020: £nil) and no trustees were reimbursed for travel costs (2020: £nil).

**6. EMPLOYEES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Group staff costs were as follows:		
Wages and salaries	298,779	446,250
Redundancy cost	15,339	-
National insurance contributions	24,888	45,554
Pension contributions	7,955	7,135
	<u>346,961</u>	<u>498,939</u>

The average weekly number of employees during the year were as follows:

	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Charitable activities	7	11
Management and support	1	3
	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>
Number of employees earning between £60,000 - £69,999	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Staff benefits paid to key management personnel amounted to £137,640 (2020 -£228,590).

WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. FIXED ASSETS	Fixtures and Fittings	Computers	Total
Group	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2020	18,358	26,799	45,157
Additions	112		112
Disposals			
At 31 March 2021	<u>18,470</u>	<u>26,799</u>	<u>45,269</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2020	7,569	21,723	29,292
Charge for the year	1,803	2,597	4,400
Disposals			
At 31 March 2021	<u>9,372</u>	<u>24,320</u>	<u>33,692</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 31 March 2021	<u>9,098</u>	<u>2,479</u>	<u>11,577</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>£2,614</u>	<u>£5,076</u>	<u>£15,865</u>

8. DEBTORS	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors		-		-
Prepayments	12,204	14,924	9,760	10,173
Accrued income	9,544	5,195	9,544	5,195
Other debtors	13,418	14,679	12,578	14,043
Due from Writers and Scholars Int'l Ltd	-	-	3,330	660
	<u>35,166</u>	<u>34,798</u>	<u>35,211</u>	<u>30,071</u>

9. CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Bank overdraft	348	1,145	-	-
Trade creditors	12,645	2,551	1,867	-
Other creditors	-	-	-	-
Taxation and social security	4,351	8,019	7,211	8,019
Accruals	33,400	20,907	13,962	10,573
Deferred income	113,622	166,795	61,713	69,739
Due to Writers and Scholars International Ltd	-	-	-	-
	<u>164,366</u>	<u>199,417</u>	<u>84,753</u>	<u>88,331</u>

WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

DEFERRED INCOME	Group		Charity	
	2021 £	2020 £	2021 £	2020 £
Brought forward	166,795	48,929	69,739	-
Released in the year	(166,795)	(48,929)	(69,739)	-
Deferred in the year	113,622	166,795	61,713	69,739
Carried forward	<u>113,622</u>	<u>166,795</u>	<u>61,713</u>	<u>69,739</u>

Deferred income relates to grant income received in advance for the next accounting period.

10. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS – GROUP – 2021	WSET £	WSIL £	TOTAL £
Balance brought forward	(26,941)	(87,802)	(114,743)
Net income	98,213	48,351	146,564
Balance carried forward	<u>71,272</u>	<u>(39,451)</u>	<u>31,821</u>

UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS – GROUP - 2020	WSET £	WSIL £	TOTAL £
Balance brought forward	44,101	1,752	45,853
Net income	(71,042)	(89,554)	(160,596)
Balance carried forward	<u>(26,941)</u>	<u>(87,802)</u>	<u>(114,743)</u>

11. RESTRICTED FUNDS - 2021	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Swedish Lottery	-	87,164	(87,164)	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>87,164</u>	<u>(87,164)</u>	<u>-</u>

RESTRICTED FUNDS - 2020	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
National Endowment for Democracy	-	81,417	(81,417)	-
Arts Council England	-	45,000	(45,000)	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,417</u>	<u>(126,417)</u>	<u>-</u>

## WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 11. RESTRICTED FUNDS (Continued)

**Nature and purpose of each fund:**

Swedish Lottery – funds for combating legal threats and actions silencing journalists.

National Endowment for Democracy – funds for greater accessibility to digital means.

Arts Council England – fund for combating censorship through providing training in legal issues and controversial artworks.

#### 12. WRITERS AND SCHOLARS INTERNATIONAL LTD

This is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and is a subsidiary of the charity. It outsources the publication of the magazine Index on Censorship, which is the main outlet through which the Trust fulfils its charitable objectives. All activities of the company have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the SOFA.

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</b>		
Turnover	227,026	256,565
Cost of sales	(148,858)	(252,999)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Gross profit</b>	78,168	3,566
Overhead expenditure	(29,817)	(93,125)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>	48,351	(89,559)
Interest receivable	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the financial year</b>	48,351	(89,559)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
<b>Fixed assets</b>	11,578	15,865
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Current assets</b>	31,914	8,078
<b>Creditors falling due within one year</b>	(82,945)	(111,746)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net current (liabilities)/assets</b>	(51,031)	(103,668)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>	(39,453)	(87,803)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**Transactions**

During the year expenditure of £64,154 (2020: £16,439) was recharged to Writers & Scholars International Limited by Writers & Scholars Educational Trust. At the balance sheet date the amount due from Writers & Scholars International Limited was £3,330 (2020: £660).

#### 13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The David and Elaine Potter Foundation made a grant of £4,000 (2020: £36,000) in the year, with £nil (2020: £nil) due to be received at the year end. Elaine Potter is a trustee of the charity. Kate Maltby, a trustee of the charity donated £11,193 to the charity in the year (2020: £6,193). No other related parties have occurred in the year or prior year.

**WRITERS & SCHOLARS EDUCATIONAL TRUST****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021****14. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – 2020**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2020 £</b>
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>			
<b>Donations &amp; legacies</b>	311,163	126,417	437,580
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Publishing fees & royalties	107,559	-	107,559
Other income from charitable activities	167,468	-	167,468
<b>Other trading activities</b>			
Events income	13,593	-	13,593
<b>Investments</b>	17	-	17
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>599,800</u>	<u>126,417</u>	<u>726,217</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>			
<b>Raising funds</b>			
Donations and legacies	305,504		305,504
Fundraising activities	14,817		14,817
<b>Charitable activities</b>	440,075	126,417	566,492
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>760,396</u>	<u>126,417</u>	<u>886,813</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	(160,596)	-	(160,596)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	45,853	-	45,853
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>£(114,743)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>£(114,743)</u>