

## **Annual Report 2017**

The photograph on the cover was taken by Sam Youngman who took part in a photography course held by Crisis UK, a homelessness charity supported by Oak Foundation. His photo was one of a selection displayed on Crisis' online art gallery: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/art-in-crisis-gallery/>

He says, "Since being at Crisis I have become housed after two decades of living rough, passed exams and now become a student at Brookes University in Oxford. Working with computers since being at Crisis, I became interested in digital art and attended the photography class over the last year."

Please see the back cover to find out how this picture embodies Oak's values.



Learn more about Oak's values here:  
[www.oakfnd.org/about-oak.html](http://www.oakfnd.org/about-oak.html)

# Our mission

Oak Foundation commits its resources to address issues of global, social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged.

## Contents

<b>02</b>	<b>About Oak</b> Our history/Remembering Gary Goodman Letter from the Trustees Our grant-making in 2017 Capacity building
<b>08</b>	<b>Child Abuse</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Environment</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Housing and Homelessness</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>International Human Rights</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>Issues Affecting Women</b>
<b>48</b>	<b>Learning Differences</b>
<b>54</b>	<b>Special Interest</b>
<b>62</b>	<b>Joint Brazil</b>
<b>68</b>	<b>Joint India</b>
<b>74</b>	<b>Denmark</b>
<b>78</b>	<b>Zimbabwe</b>
<b>82</b>	<b>Oak staff and addresses</b>
<b>84</b>	<b>References</b>

# Our history



Since its establishment, Oak Foundation has made more than

**4,300**

grants to not-for-profit organisations across the globe.

The resources of Oak Foundation originated from an interest in the Duty Free Shoppers business which Alan Parker helped to build. Today, the Foundation comprises a group of philanthropic organisations based in various countries around the world.

Oak Foundation was formally established in 1983. Early grants were made in Denmark to organisations supporting single mothers and torture victims (1983) and in Zimbabwe to groups supporting vulnerable children and families, primarily at community levels (1984). Grants continued to be made annually in several countries until a new phase for Oak Foundation began in the early 1990s, when annual grant-making increased and staff were hired to run substantive programmes.

The first two programmes to get underway were Environment and Child Abuse, followed by four other programmes – Housing and Homelessness, International Human Rights, Issues Affecting Women and Learning Differences.

There is also a Special Interest Programme, which funds efforts identified by the Trustees that do not fall into the other programme areas, and two national programmes in Denmark and Zimbabwe. Five of Oak's programmes also fund initiatives in India and Brazil, which are known as the Joint India Programme and Joint Brazil Programme.

Since its establishment, Oak Foundation has made more than 4,300 grants to not-for-profit organisations across the globe. Oak Foundation has its main administrative office in Geneva,

Switzerland and a presence in seven other countries: Bulgaria, Denmark, India, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zimbabwe.

## Remembering Gary Goodman

Staff and Trustees of Oak Foundation would like to mark the passing of our beloved friend and colleague Gary Goodman (featured above) who died on 14 February 2017. Gary was the secretary of Oak Foundation from 1998 to shortly before his death. From the early stages, he helped Trustees transform their passions into concrete grants. For close to two decades, his pragmatism, good judgement and commitment meant that he played a pivotal role in making Oak Foundation what it is today.

Gary was a pillar of strength. We miss his spirit and enthusiasm for life and work. We also miss his good humour, optimism and helpfulness. Gary enriched our lives and we remember him fondly and with affection. He will continue to inspire us in the work we do in support of our Trustees and to achieve the mission of Oak Foundation.

# Letter from the Trustees

In our last two Annual Reports, we noted the tumultuous nature of world events – and their impact on our work and partners. 2017 was no exception. Our partners – which totalled 308 in 35 countries – continued to face new and intense challenges as they strove to promote human rights, end violence, protect the vulnerable, improve education and save the planet. In one case last year, a wildlife defender paid the ultimate price, losing his life in pursuit of justice. Others live under constant threat and attack. In some of the areas in which we work, progress was re-defined as standing still against assaults on hard-won gains. Despite this, there are impressive achievements to report. For example:

- While the human rights community is described at large as on the defensive, our partners are holding the powerful to account. They are organising in new ways, re-framing their messages, using new tools and speaking out through protests, social media and the press. In doing so they are raising awareness of, and demanding attention to, controversial issues such as the rights of prisoners in Brazil, undocumented migrants in Europe and the sexual abuse of children worldwide.

- Increasing people's knowledge of their rights and courage to claim them remain central themes of our support. We see this in a small but tenacious group providing advice and services to victims of violence in Mexico, in the legal assistance offered to asylum seekers in the US and in the defence of safe urban spaces in India and Brazil. In some cases, the demands of the most vulnerable – such as rickshaw pullers in India, institutionalised children in Bulgaria and single homeless people in the UK – are being heard. This is in part thanks to advocacy and campaigning for improved laws and policies.

- Ending violence against women and children – and transforming social norms that drive it – runs through several of our programmes. This requires addressing: power imbalances in homes and communities; lack of safe spaces and public transport; rigid concepts of masculinity; and a broader understanding of psychological,

economic and other forms of violence. It means tackling deeply held misconceptions about discipline, 'good' parenting and the entitlements of some groups over others.

- The situation of migrants continues to receive special attention in countries all around the world. Services that include street outreach, free healthcare, legal advice and temporary housing are offered to ease the physical and mental pain of displacement; public exhibitions and appeals to core values are launched to open minds and opportunities. The safety of people on the move, whether to escape violence or to realise dreams, features in many of the grants made this year.

- Our concern for the environment is taking new forms. This includes global campaigns – from ridding the oceans of plastics to supporting urban waste pickers, the unsung heroes of recycling in Brazil and other countries. Efforts to ensure safe and reliable public transport designed to serve low-income areas and give priority to pedestrians and cyclists are central to our concept of sustainable cities.

These are just a few examples among many of how our partners are promoting social justice, citizen participation, access to information and services, collaboration and more inclusive and personalised education across the world. The common threads of these efforts are: respect for human rights; support for courage and innovation; and celebration of the human spirit. We hope that you will be as inspired as we are by this work and its results.

## The Trustees of Oak Foundation:

Caroline Turner, Kristian Parker,  
Natalie Shipton, Jette Parker,  
Alan Parker, Christopher Parker

# Our grant-making in 2017

All amounts provided represent US dollars in millions.

We made

## 330

programme grants to

## 308

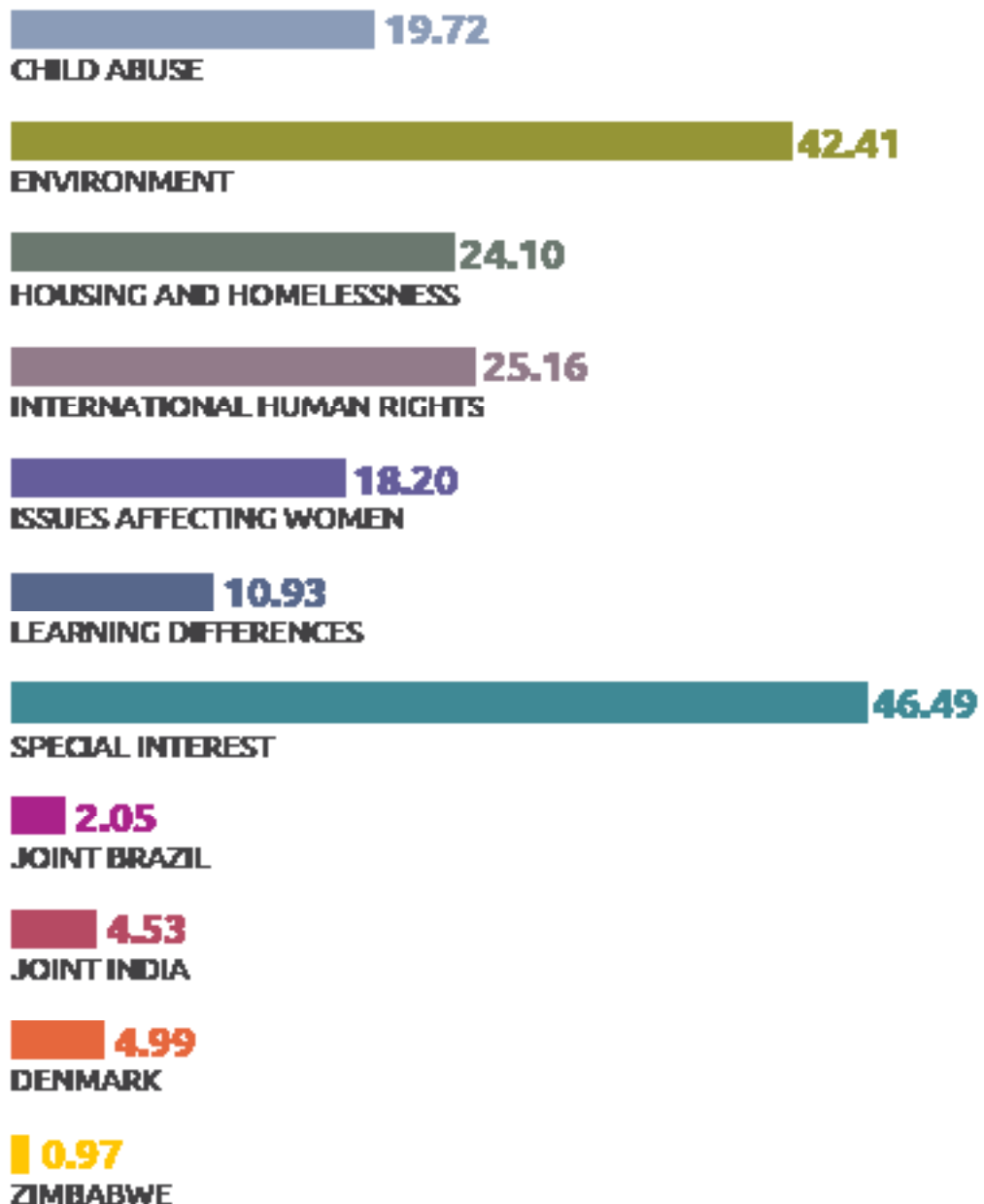
organisations in

## 35

countries.

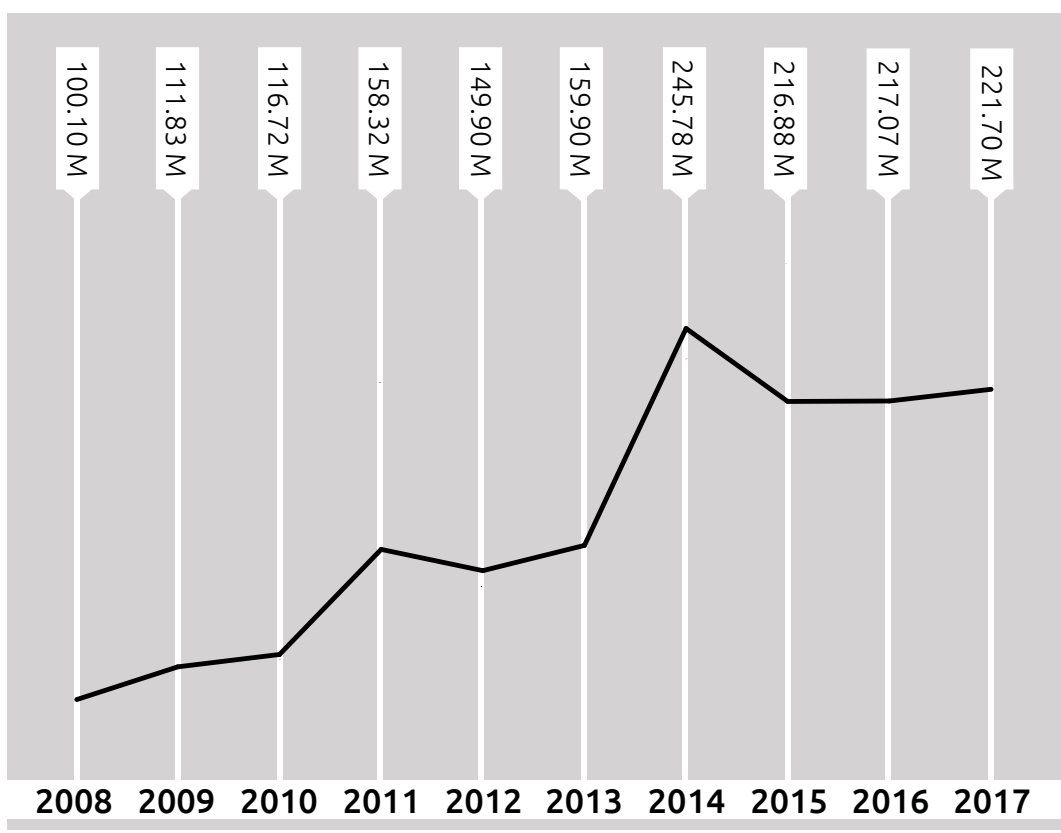
During the 2017 calendar year, Oak Foundation made 328 programme grants for a total of USD 199.55 million. This exclude 2 Special Initiative grants for a total of USD 12 million. These grants supported 308 organisations based in 35 countries. The work of these organisations is carried out throughout the world. Not including the Special Initiative grants, the size of grants varied from approximately USD 25,000 to USD 7 million, with an average of USD 600,000.

## Total programme and discretionary grant-making in 2017



199.55 M	Total programme grants
12.85 M	Discretionary grants
(2.70 M)	Refunds and cancellations
<b>209.70 M</b>	<b>TOTAL REGULAR GRANT-MAKING</b>
12.00 M	Special Initiative grants*
<b>221.70 M</b>	<b>NET AMOUNT GRANTED</b>

## Total grant-making 2008-2017



\* Please see page 61 of this report for the Special Initiative grants.



A searchable grant database containing grants approved in previous years, grant-making criteria and application information are available on Oak Foundation's website ([www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)).

# Capacity building

**Since Semillas was founded, it has supported more than 450 women's organisations in Mexico, benefiting 2.5 million people.**

Oak Foundation supports initiatives that develop the capacity building of its partners to carry out their work more effectively. In this year's annual report, we have focused on strategic planning and core support.

## Semillas: transforming women's rights in Mexico

Malala Yousafzai, the youngest ever Nobel Prize laureate, famously said that "we cannot succeed when half of us are held back". In the ever-continuing fight for equality and justice around the world, her words carry particular weight. Semillas is a women's fund dedicated to protecting and empowering women in Mexico. Semillas envisions a sustainable world in which society – in all its diversity – lives in freedom, justice and equality and where rights are fully exercised. Oak has provided funding to Semillas since 2008 through our Issues Affecting Women's Programme. Since 2011 this support has been in the form of core funds.

**"Semillas was founded by Mexican feminist activists who realised that funding for women's rights was seldom reaching the grassroots."**

**– Jenny Barry  
Head of Development  
Semillas**

Over the last quarter century, Semillas has continued to strengthen the work of women's groups that are under the radar of other donors, either because they are working in remote communities or because they form part of marginalised groups that have not been prioritised in development agendas, such as sex workers or lesbian rights activists. Since Semillas was founded, it has supported more than 450 women's organisations in Mexico, thus benefiting 2.5 million people.

The core of Oak's approach to capacity development is a focus on providing support to individual grantees to grow and develop. We have a strong and shared ethos that capacity development should be owned by our partners, led by them and tailored to their needs. We want our partners to feel supported in their individual learning journeys to access appropriate support so that they become stronger, more able to achieve their social justice outcomes and are sustainable, resilient and effective. An excellent mechanism which allows grantees to pursue their organisational strengthening goals is the core support Oak provides.

Semillas is a fast-growing organisation that continues to radically impact the women's movement in Mexico. As part of this growth, Semillas developed a new strategic plan for 2016 – 2021 to further increase its impact, prestige and visibility, as well as expand its feminist vision and improve its strategic clarity. Semillas has used the core funding from Oak for this process; these funds allow our partners the autonomy to devote time and resources as they see fit. In addition, Semillas was in a place where a new strategic direction was paramount for its organisational future.

The strategic planning process was carried out in collaboration with Semillas' staff, board of directors, current and former grantees, consultants and strategic allies. After an initial reflection session, committees were developed to work independently on key issues and establish new recommendations for Semillas in the following areas: programmes; grantee selection process; and grantee accompaniment models. Among other resources, this process was informed by two critical studies (commissioned by Semillas), which explore the best practices of other women's funds and characteristics of social movements. All participants then came together for a final session and proposals were voted upon for approval.

The new strategic plan was released earlier this year. The ambitious plan seeks to honour Semillas' roots by further strengthening its connection to the feminist movement in Mexico.



“We believe that the collective power generated by organised women who are building momentum in local communities throughout Mexico will ultimately lead to broader, structural changes,” says Jenny Barry, head of development at Semillas. This shift affects how Semillas will make grant-making and capacity-building decisions and how it will conduct fundraising and internal procedures. This change is reflected in the new strategic plan.


“We want our policies and practices – the way in which we carry out our work – to line up with the values set forth by Semillas and the feminist movement more broadly,” says Jenny. Prior to the strategic planning process, Semillas worked under eight thematic programmes that primarily responded to the priorities of Semillas’ institutional donors and which were limiting. Under the new plan, Semillas established four broad programme areas that will allow the organisation to support a more diverse group of grantees.

In undertaking such a radical strategic change, many key lessons were learned. “The biggest lesson learned about the process is that the consultants were helpful in facilitating an initial process, but it was necessary for Semillas’ staff to take the lead and develop our own methodologies, discussions and working spaces to get to where we wanted,” says Jenny. The team also found that it was extremely important to include grantees and feminist allies in the strategic planning process – something which had not previously happened. This helped improve the quality of discussions and push forward a bolder and more ambitious plan. Other key lessons included: motivating and encouraging those who are already on board with the change to help ignite enthusiasm throughout the whole organisation; and focusing on future opportunities, rather than on existing weaknesses.

The new strategic plan has been met with enthusiasm by Semillas and its partners. “I found the new plan inspiring,” says Adriana Craciun, Oak’s senior adviser on organisational development and capacity building.

“It’s ambitious but also deeply feminist and a reflection of where the fund is headed. It has also had significant positive consequences for Semillas’ organisational development and fundraising.”

“In all the years I’ve received funds from Semillas, I’ve always felt supported,” says Julieta Hernández, a Semillas partner and executive director of Sí Hay Mujeres en Durango.

 **“Semillas is not just another foundation. It has a human face, and we, as defenders, feel protected. Semillas has made me aware of opportunities and has always been watchful for my safety.”**

– Julieta Hernández  
Executive Director  
Sí Hay Mujeres en Durango

Over the next few years, Semillas will continue to prioritise strengthening the culture of philanthropy in Mexico. “Mexicans are incredibly generous, but they are more likely to give to someone asking for money on the street than to invest in a cause,” says Jenny. “People used to tell me, ‘there is no Mexican philanthropy – asking Mexicans to donate is like pulling teeth’. In the past few years, we have seen first-hand that this is not true. Mexican philanthropy is growing and we are hopeful that women’s rights advocates in Mexico will increasingly be able to sustain their work with the support of local donors.”

To find out more about the work of Semillas, visit its website (<https://semillas.org.mx/en/>) or check out this video, which gives insight into its work and how it directly affects women in Mexico ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ya-Jsa9mHs&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=erikasemillas](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ya-Jsa9mHs&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=erikasemillas)).

For more information on how Oak supports the capacity development of our partners, visit our website <http://oakfnd.org/capacity-building.html>

# Child Abuse



1

Violence, abuse and exploitation of children are unfortunately not new. The devastating consequences that violence has on children's development and on societies as a whole are coming to light. At least three in four of the world's children have experienced violence, but it does not have to be this way – violence is preventable.

In the Child Abuse Programme, we envision a world in which all children are protected from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. We support initiatives that: eliminate the sexual exploitation of children; engage men and boys in combating the sexual abuse of children; and promote the prevention of violence against children.



## Reflections

2017 was a year of transition for the Child Abuse Programme (CAP). We began by wishing former director Florence Bruce well in her new pursuits after 18 years of stewardship of the programme, and Brigette De Lay took over the role of director. In the summer, we welcomed two new programme officers – Helena Duch and Rita Kahurananga. They brought new skill sets to our team, expanding our 55 years of collective grant-making experience. Finally, we launched a formal review of CAP’s 2012 – 2017 strategy, including the completion of an in-depth external review of our grant-making to engage men and boys in ending child sexual abuse.

Alongside internal changes, we continued to be inspired by our partners’ impact on children’s lives. At community levels, our partners continue to pilot and test new prevention models to tackle the drivers of sexual violence against children in Brazil, Bulgaria, Uganda and Zanzibar. New networks and coalitions have formed and old networks have been strengthened. We supported new partnerships to bring more visibility to child sexual abuse, including the development of a new global index on child sexual violence. We also helped the Swiss organisation Kairos develop an application to promote healthy sexual relationships among adolescents.

Many of CAP’s partners have also contributed to the recent evidence revolution in the field of violence prevention. Know Violence in Childhood launched a global report entitled

“Ending Violence in Childhood” and Together for Girls began consolidating existing data on the drivers, consequences of and solutions to ending child sexual abuse. Partners have also conducted research to expand our understanding of youths’ perceptions of healthy relationships and what they think needs to be done to keep children safe and to promote gender-equitable relationships.

We have learned a lot over these past five years, and remain committed to using the power of private philanthropy to end child sexual abuse. As we develop our new strategy, we will prioritise prevention, as we believe this is CAP’s greatest contribution to the field. We will also continue to invest in testing and piloting solutions, especially in the global south. We recognise that we cannot end sexual violence without increasing political and societal attention around the issue. We stand behind partners who are committed to ending child sexual abuse and exploitation and who are pioneers in the rapidly changing field of violence prevention.

# 46

grants were made by the Child Abuse Programme in 2017, totalling USD 19.72 million.



Find out more at  
[www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)



## Celebrating 15 years of deinstitutionalisation in Bulgaria

The Berlin wall fell in 1989. This historical moment marked the end of the Soviet Union and the communist era, and the beginning of a largescale move towards a capitalist system in Bulgaria and elsewhere. The transition to a market economy meant widespread disruption to daily life. Changes took place on all levels of society and they deeply affected everyone across the eastern bloc. People struggled to manage financially and poverty was commonplace.

The ramifications of these changes are still felt to this day in various ways, and their impact will probably live on forever in people's memories. For instance, many will recall harrowing images of children in institutional care in Eastern Europe during the 1990s and at the beginning of this century. Often, institutions were the only social safety net available for families who were struggling to provide for their children.

“Sadly, it was often the children who bore the worst consequences of the transition. Many were sent into those institutions – some were even abandoned by their parents.”

-Tanya Kovacheva  
Programme Officer  
Child Abuse Programme, Bulgaria

Studies<sup>1</sup> have shown that institutional care has a negative impact on the wellbeing of children. “There is a wealth of evidence that shows that children suffer tremendously – developmentally, cognitively, emotionally and behaviourally growing up in these

soulless facilities,” says Delia Pop, director of programmes and global advocacy for **Hope and Homes for Children**.

As awareness of what was happening to children in institutions grew, many people across Eastern and Western Europe tried to help. Parents reached out offering to adopt children into their own families to give them a better chance in life. In addition, donors began funding work, in particular in Romania, at first to improve the institutions and eventually to empty them and close them down.

At the end of 2001, there were 12,609 children living in 165 institutions in Bulgaria.<sup>2</sup> Although work to support children in institutions was well underway in Romania and other parts of Eastern Europe, the problem had not yet been addressed in Bulgaria.

There were vested interests in keeping the institutions going – they were sources of employment at a time when jobs were scarce, and they provided some sort of a solution for families in difficult circumstances. There were also very few organisations with experience in transforming the child welfare system, including promoting family-based care over outdated institutions. In short, they were seen as a way of life. For these and other reasons, there were few funders supporting deinstitutionalisation initiatives in Bulgaria.

In addition, it is well known in the child abuse sector that children living in and transitioning out of care are more at risk of child sexual abuse and exploitation. It was essentially this that pushed Oak to begin funding this issue.

In 2001, Florence Bruce was the director of Oak’s Child Abuse Programme. “It used to be said that if you can work in Bulgaria, you can work anywhere,” she said. “It was really tough ground. So, Oak took up this challenge.” The Child Abuse Programme team began investigating how Oak could best reach out and support as many children in institutions as possible.

Florence and the team visited Bulgaria in 2001, looking to find people working in the child sector who Oak could partner with. “At first, we couldn’t get

into the institutions of course,” said Florence. “But some Bulgarian not-for-profit organisations finally managed to get us into one. Then, we saw it for ourselves – these large soulless institutions for children were indeed wastelands – there were no gardens, no beauty, no flowers, nothing. It was terrible for the children growing up in them.”

That same year, Oak started supporting projects in Bulgaria. In 2002, grant-making developed to support small scale projects that included: child helplines at local levels; prevention work in schools and communities; and work with street children. At the time there was a state-wide dependency on institutions – it seemed impossible to close them down.

Nevertheless, the work gained momentum. People, organisations and donors joined efforts.

Oak’s portfolio gradually grew to include:

- the establishment of a new child rights network, the **National Network for Children**, which acted as an advocate for change;
- the closing of institutions for infants through Hope and Homes for Children and **For Our Children Foundation**;
- the creation of a **Learning Action Partnership** – which promoted and coordinated evidence-based practice and policy to reduce child sexual exploitation and ensure safe transitions for children from care to life in the community;
- the setting up of the Know-How Centre on Alternative Care for Children within the **New Bulgarian University** to support the Bulgarian Government to take informed decisions for replacing institutional care with community-based services and families; and
- research on violence in institutions and the impact of institutional care on children’s vulnerability to abuse, specifically sexual abuse.

The work of Oak’s partners in Bulgaria has born rich fruit. Perhaps the greatest reward for their various efforts came in 2010, when the Bulgarian Government announced it would close down all

**Children in care institutions are more at risk of child sexual abuse and exploitation.**

**This is why Oak began funding alternatives to institutionalisation for children in need of care.**





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# 12,609:

number of children living in institutions at the end of 2001.

# 1,059:

number of children living in institutional care in December 2016.

institutions by 2025. The Government is currently on track to achieving this goal – in December 2016, there were only 1,059 children in institutional care in the country, a huge drop from the figure of 12,609 some 15 years earlier.<sup>3</sup> Many children have returned to their families or have been placed in foster care.

“Deinstitutionalisation is not only about closing institutions. It is also about looking out for children’s best interests, supporting them to be resilient, to take their place in the community and to enjoy a normal life and a happy childhood.”

- Dani Koleva  
Policy Director  
National Network for Children

Today, Oak is celebrating more than 15 years of supporting partners in Bulgaria and the huge successes that have been achieved. Our partners have played an instrumental role in: transforming social work practice; strengthening support to children and families; preventing all forms of violence against children; building and translating evidence into action; and building the capacity of partners and networks.

“Every child deserves to grow up in a loving home,” says CAP director Brigette De Lay. “Fifteen years after our first grant in Bulgaria, we know that thousands of children have been, and will be, spared the harm of institutional care. We know this is the result of the tireless leadership and determination

of our partners. We feel privileged to have been part of their efforts through our grant-making.”

## In loving memory of Tanya Kovacheva

In 2017, we lost our dear friend, colleague and a warrior for children’s rights Tanya Kovacheva (featured in the photo above).

Tanya served Oak Foundation with distinction for over a decade. She built the field of child protection in Bulgaria and was instrumental in overseeing our grant-making to close down institutions. She fought tirelessly for children’s rights, was an innovator in preventing sexual abuse and sexual exploitation and a champion of deinstitutionalisation of children. In 2015, Tanya was awarded the Presidential Medal of Honour in recognition of her achievements.

We will remember Tanya for her warmth, generosity of spirit, pragmatism and ready smile. Tanya was what all Oak staff aspire to be – appreciated by her Trustees and colleagues, admired by her peers and beloved by her partners. We will miss her dearly.

See a video featuring Tanya shortly before her passing:  
<https://vimeo.com/214669298>

References: Please see page 84 of this report.



Oak Foundation's partner Roditeli Association has been working in collaboration with Bulgarian not-for-profit organisations to promote positive models of male caregiving in parenting. This work is built on the MenCare campaign, which works to inspire men, their families and their communities to support men's caregiving in the protection of children against abuse, including sexual abuse.

Virginia Ruan, head of communications for Oak Foundation and David Kiuranov, project coordinator for the Roditeli Association interviewed the children in the photos in this section of the Annual Report. The children and their fathers had participated in a Father's Week Programme at their school, organised by the Roditeli Association. For the photo shoot, the children shared an object that represented what family meant to them. Here is what they had to say:

1. *"This is a photo of my mom, dad and me. I made a birthday wish to have a photo that looks like it came from the previous century. For me, my family and I are in a circle of trust."* – Mia
2. *"This is the key to my home where I live with my parents and my dog. My home is my life. I love my parents."* – Niya
3. *"This is an old watch which was from my great, great grandfather. He made the watch himself – 500 years ago. When I forget, my father reminds me. He has told the story many times."* – Stefcho
4. *"When my family and I travel, we collect bells like this one. I love to take trips with my family. My father participates in fathers' week at our school. I like to play with him too."* – Michail
5. *"When the weather is good, I go on my scooter or on my bike to the park with my family. I love them very much."* – Dani
6. *"My father gave me these crabs. I loved these crabs so much that the legs and the eyes fell off. My family sewed them back together."* – Ellie



# Grants

## Ending the sexual exploitation of children

### Bank Information Center (BIC)

**USD 757,000 (36 months)**

To allow the BIC to influence World Bank projects and policies to ensure the implementation of measures to safeguard the protection of children.

### Dialogai

**USD 245,545 (24 months)**

To provide social support and counselling to LGBT youth through its La Refuge Service and to raise awareness about the impact of discrimination on LGBT youth's health.

### ECPAT International

**USD 100,000 (12 months)**

To expand and strengthen the ECPAT International network in Eastern Europe and enhance the capacity of civil society to combat the sexual exploitation of children.

### Institute for Human Rights and Business

**USD 118,369 (9 months)**

To identify and set in motion a process to make Sport for Development and Peace funders inclusive of human rights, and to increase their alignment to the work on mega sporting events.

### Tides Center

**USD 500,000 (18 months)**

To support the Code Blue Campaign that seeks to end impunity for sexual abuse by UN peacekeeping personnel.

### Together for Girls

**USD 249,975 (15 months)**

To develop a report on what works to prevent and respond to sexual violence in childhood, and to align the findings with the global INSPIRE framework for violence prevention.

### UNI Global Union, The World Players Association

**USD 204,970 (24 months)**

To support the coordination of the Sports and Rights Alliance, a coalition of leading global organisations which are working together on human rights, labour rights, children's rights, anti-corruption and sustainability in sport.

## Engaging men and boys in ending sexual abuse

### CARE Deutschland – Luxembourg

**USD 640,426 (36 months)**

To support gender equality and decrease violence and youth extremism within Serbia, Albania, Croatia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### Johns Hopkins University

**USD 500,000 (36 months)**

To carry out a study to better understand the factors in early adolescence that either predispose young people to sexual health risks or promote healthy sexuality.

### Lucy Faithfull Foundation

**USD 347,985 (36 months)**

To test the Eradicating Child Sexual Abuse toolkit in Brazil and Bulgaria.

### MARTA Center

**USD 200,000 (36 months)**

To prevent sexual, emotional and physical violence of boys and girls aged 13-16 years in Latvia.

### männer.ch

**USD 785,446 (36 months)**

To continue the national MenCare programme in Switzerland to change social norms by engaging men in gender equality and increasing men's participation and responsibility in children's lives.

### Pro Pride

**USD 246,706 (36 months)**

To help end violence against children by promoting positive gender norms and the active engagement of men and boys in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia.

### RADIX Fondation Suisse pour la promotion de la santé

**USD 764,350 (36 months)**

To support RADIX to implement a national project which encourages adolescents to acquire positive life skills and to achieve healthy dating relationships.

### Roditeli Association

**USD 375,803 (36 months)**

To prevent violence against children by empowering fathers and other male caregivers in Bulgaria.

### Sonke Gender Justice Network

**USD 549,940 (36 months)**

To strengthen violence prevention work with men and boys in Uganda and Tanzania, Sonke will partner with Promundo to disseminate the findings of the International Men and Gender Survey.

## Preventing violence, protecting children

### ActionAid International Tanzania

**USD 269,648 (36 months)**

To prevent acts of violence against children in schools and communities in North Unjuga, Zanzibar.

### American University

**USD 149,815 (30 months)**

To research opportunities to increase global and national political priority for addressing violence against children, in particular sexual violence.

### Approach Ltd

**USD 250,000 (36 months)**

To promote the universal prohibition and elimination of all corporal punishment of children.

### Avenir Social - Travail Social Suisse

**USD 63,599 (24 months)**

To regulate the social work profession in Switzerland by federal law in order to ensure high-quality standards and care.

### C-Sema

**USD 250,000 (36 months)**

To prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children in Tanzania.

### Child Rights Connect

**USD 445,545 (36 months)**

To provide core support to Child Rights Connect, a global children's rights network.

### Deafkidz International

**USD 243,291 (36 months)**

To empower deaf and hard-of-hearing children and young people in Jamaica and South Africa to protect themselves against abuse.

### Demetra Association

**USD 241,464 (36 months)**

To develop a community strategy for the prevention of child sexual abuse by testing the Lucy Faithfull's Eradicating Sexual Child Abuse toolkit in southeast Bulgaria.

### Disability Rights International

**USD 100,000 (5 months)**

To help children with (and without) disabilities who are currently living in institutions in Eastern Europe fully integrate into the community.

### ENDA

**USD 250,000 (24 months)**

To provide core support to the African Movement of Child and Youth Workers, which supports child workers in Africa.





7

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8

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### Graduate Institute Geneva

**USD 130,144 (36 months)**

To establish an internship programme within Oak's Child Abuse Programme for second year masters' students of the Graduate Institute Geneva who have an interest in the child rights and child protection sectors.

### Hope and Homes for Children

**USD 900,000 (36 months)**

To put an end to institutional care for children in Bulgaria and Moldova.

### International Center for Research on Women

**USD 600,000 (36 months)**

To advance knowledge and the evidence base of what works to end violence against children in East Africa.

### International Rescue Committee

**USD 350,000 (12 months)**

To test a new WHO manual that provides scalable, low-intensity psychological help for young adolescent refugees in Tanzania experiencing disabling levels of psychosocial distress.

### London Citizens (Citizens UK)

**USD 70,168 (12 months)**

To secure policy changes which open safe and legal routes for child migrants (across Europe) and to support communities to increase local capacity to campaign for refugees and support their integration in the United Kingdom.

### Medical Research Council of South Africa

**USD 100,000 (4 months)**

To enable Oak partners to attend the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum in 2017.

### National Network for Children Association

**USD 400,205 (36 months)**

To protect children from violence, including sexual violence, in Bulgaria.

### NEO Philanthropy (formerly Public Interest Projects)

**USD 920,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to help implement the new 2017-2019 strategy of the Elevate Children Funders Group.

### New Venture Fund

**USD 1,325,000 (18 months)**

To support national actions, especially from the global South, to implement the INSPIRE framework, which includes seven strategies that have shown success in reducing violence against children.

### Pathfinder International

**USD 627,462 (32 months)**

To reduce violence against children by improving primary prevention and increasing response efforts in households and at the community level in Zanzibar.

### Positive Personal Skills in Society Foundation (Pernik)

**USD 262,170 (36 months)**

To test the Lucy Faithfull's Eradicating Child Sexual Abuse toolkit in the southwest of Bulgaria by developing a plan to prevent child sexual abuse through intervention.

### Raising Voices

**USD 1,000,000 (48 months)**

To prevent violence against children at schools, home and communities in Uganda.

### SOS Children's Villages Latvia

**USD 334,593 (48 months)**

To ensure that children and youth in Latvia grow up in a caring family environment either with biological or professional foster parents.

### Terre des hommes Foundation "Lausanne" in Hungary

**USD 850,581 (36 months)**

To strengthen systems and professional competencies to protect children's fundamental rights to be protected from abuse across South East Europe.

### Tides Center

**USD 1,160,735 (60 months)**

To help implement the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and childcare related policies and practices at global, regional and country levels.

### World Childhood Foundation Inc.

**USD 450,190 (12 months)**

To develop a benchmarking tool to understand, measure and raise awareness of the issue of child sexual abuse globally, in collaboration with the Economist Intelligence Unit.

### World Education Inc. / Bantwana

**USD 735,000 (36 months)**

To support community-based programming to strengthen violence against children prevention and response efforts across 20 schools and communities in two districts of Western Uganda.

### Youth Underground

**USD 51,261 (12 months)**

To provide core support to Youth Underground, which works to prevent human trafficking through awareness-raising, education and advocacy.



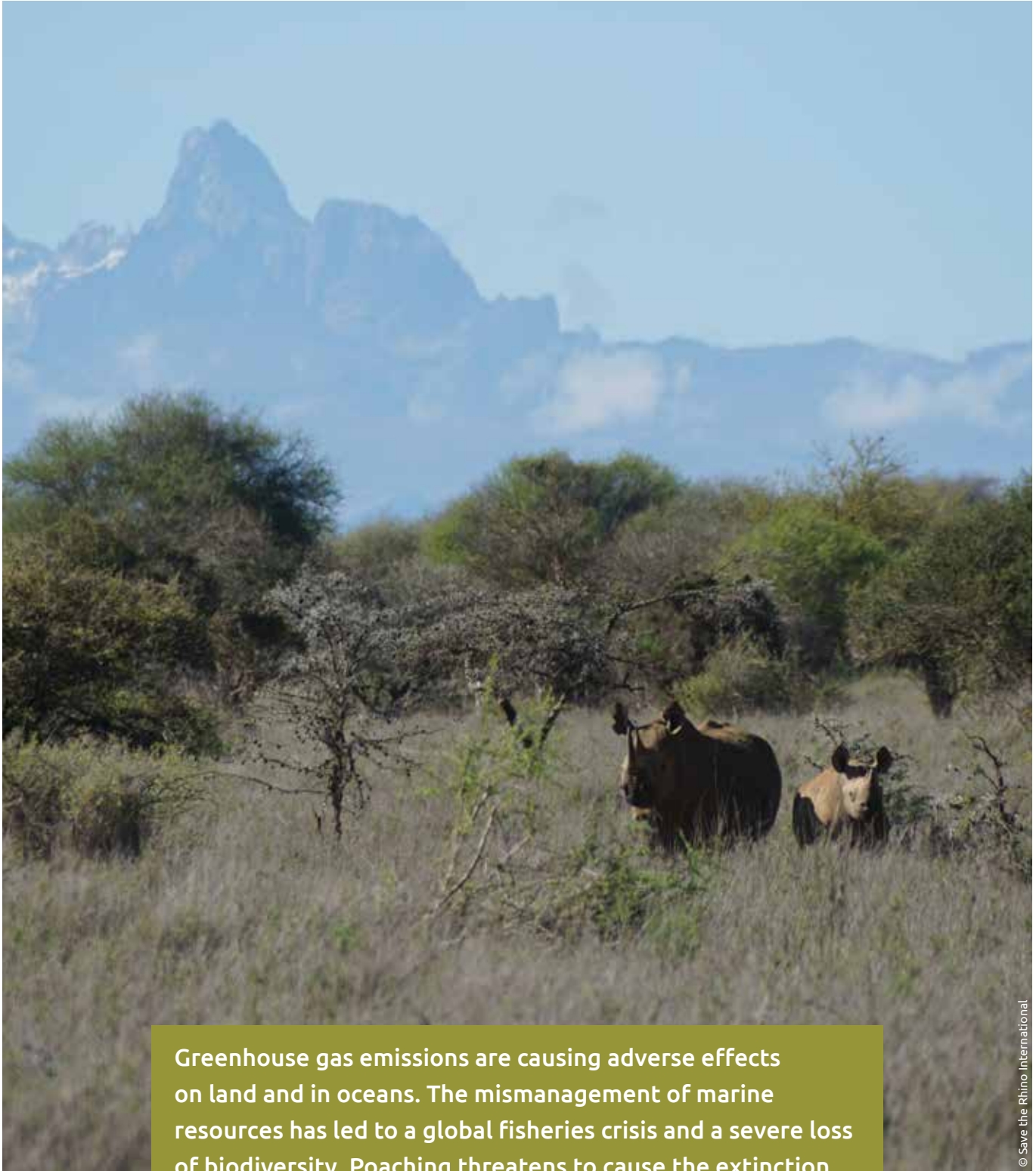
7. "My great-grandfather made this box. My mother and father gave it to me for my birthday last year. It reminds me of how much I love my family." – Yoana

8. "My father gave me this giraffe. My father lives in Tanzania. I have not seen him in ten months. We speak on the phone every day. I miss him very much." – Mila



This is a list of our grants approved in 2017. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our website at [www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)

# Environment



Greenhouse gas emissions are causing adverse effects on land and in oceans. The mismanagement of marine resources has led to a global fisheries crisis and a severe loss of biodiversity. Poaching threatens to cause the extinction of wildlife.

In the Environment Programme, our grant-making focuses on three main areas: safeguarding a clean climate future for our children; cleaning up our oceans; and eliminating the illegal trade in endangered wildlife.



## Reflections

In 137 years of record-keeping, 2016 was the warmest year ever known. In Antarctica, the breakaway of a gigantic iceberg – the world’s largest – was a reminder of both the speed and the magnitude of the changes in the Earth’s climate. In addition, CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere are also directly impacting the pH levels of ocean water and changing ocean chemistry at an unprecedented rate, putting marine life at risk. While it would be easy to be discouraged by such news, our team instead finds them a source of inspiration. It strengthens our resolve.

Oak’s partners are promoting and contributing to important results in renewable energy transformation. China announced its intention to invest over USD 350 billion in renewable power capacity by 2020, while India has stated that it will not need any new coal-fired plants for the foreseeable future. Oak’s partner **Carbon Tracker** reports that “positive developments on coal use in China and India are likely to reduce projected global carbon emissions growth (...) by roughly two to three billion tonnes by 2030 compared to forecasts made a year ago”. This news is indeed positive.

In May 2017, the European Commission announced a key proposal to implement smart road tolls (penalising CO<sub>2</sub> emitters) as well as a road map to achieving zero-emission mobility. The Commission also reaffirmed its commitment to set stricter CO<sub>2</sub> standards for cars, vans and, for the first time, trucks (in early 2018). Oak’s grantee **Transport & Environment**

has been a key advocate of these improvements and an efficient watchdog for their implementation.

In the marine field, Oak has launched its small-scale fisheries strategy, and the new strategy on industrial scale fisheries started in earnest this year. The focus is on Asia, the region of some of the world’s largest fishing fleets, seafood and fish consumer countries, and where problems associated with illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries are rampant. But it is also where some countries, such as North Korea, Taiwan and Japan, present promising opportunities.

The global movement to stop plastic pollution (*#breakfreefromplastic*) is going ahead full steam. The campaign involves major transformations in the way that we produce, consume and recycle plastics, so it will take time to see concrete results in the oceans. Nonetheless, it is impressive to see the increasing levels of engagement of organisations, celebrities, cities and concerned citizens in the campaign.

Finally, in the area of illegal wildlife trade, we have put in place some key public and private partnerships to help disrupt the illegal trade of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn. Implementation of the recently announced ban on the legal domestic trade on elephant ivory in China is central to our efforts. We have devoted this year’s article in our Annual Report to this sub-Programme. We hope it will give readers an insight to our partners’ work in this area.

# 43

grants were made by the Environment Programme in 2017, totalling USD 42.41 million.



Find out more at [www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)



## It is getting harder to be a wildlife criminal

According to an article in the South China Morning Post,<sup>1</sup> Hong Kong customs officers seized HKD 120 million (about USD 15 million) in illegal endangered wildlife products, including ivory and rhino horn, in the first eight months of 2017. Overall, during this period, customs officers confiscated 3,300 smuggled endangered species products, weighing a total of 49 tonnes. To get through customs, smugglers had disguised pangolin scales as potato chips, concealed ivory in computer cases and even wrapped live turtles in socks before hiding them in luggage or in boxes.

“Guilty verdicts for wildlife crimes send a strong message to networks of poachers, smugglers, financiers, middlemen, shippers and retailers – that the world values its natural heritage and wants the exploitation of wildlife to stop.”

- Alexandra Kennaugh  
Illegal Wildlife Trade  
Programme Officer  
Oak Foundation

Global awareness of the issue is growing. Civil society is responding to a rising wildlife trafficking industry estimated to be worth, globally, USD 23 billion a year.<sup>2</sup> Wildlife crime laws are getting stronger. Domestic markets for ivory are closing and increased intelligence-led investigations are producing more convictions from Hanoi to Hong Kong to Harare. Indeed, heavier court sentences may even be causing the black market industry to adjust its tactics.

Now, instead of smuggling in bulk via the oceans as they once did, traffickers are sending protected species in small air parcels or with air passengers to minimise risk. In addition, online shopping and e-commerce trade is mushrooming. Illegal trade routes are splintering and becoming more complex.

In turn, this means conservation and law enforcement partners must also respond with more target-led arrests to bring wildlife criminals to justice. These include higher profile court cases, trickier transboundary coordination and complicated transnational tactics – all in an environment where the risks are escalating considerably.

Oak Foundation supports the dedicated and passionate networks of people and not-for-profit organisations around the world engaged in this fight to ensure wild populations of elephants and rhinos can thrive. This includes our grantees featured in this report: **PAMS Foundation**, based in Tanzania; the **Environmental Investigation Agency**, based in the United Kingdom; and the **Wildlife Conservation Society's** Combatting Wildlife Trafficking programme, which works internationally.

## Disrupting traffickers

Oak supports PAMS Foundation in Tanzania. As the only not-for-profit organisation to provide anti-poaching support across all major elephant ecosystems in Tanzania, PAMS has been instrumental in bringing about a dramatic reduction of poaching in the country in recent years.

Krissie Clark and the late Wayne Lotter, co-founders of PAMS, pioneered an intelligence-led approach to investigating wildlife crime with the Tanzanian National and Transnational Serious Crimes Investigation Unit and the recently established Wildlife and Forest Crime Task Force. By coordinating public agencies, this approach targets high-level buyers, transporters and financiers of poaching networks, who are becoming increasingly well organised on a global scale. This has led to a significant decline in poaching.

PAMS estimates that more than 65 per cent (on average) of the major poaching syndicates operating in Tanzania's Ruaha, Katavi, Selous, Tarangire-Manyara ecosystems, and more than 80 per cent of their sponsors in the cities, including Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, have been disrupted. This has dramatically reduced the killing of elephants across Tanzania.

Oak's Illegal Wildlife Trade strategy will continue to champion organisations that disrupt wildlife trafficking networks by using intelligence-led approaches, while building law enforcement and judiciary capacity. Our hope is that our partners' work will: strengthen civil society partnerships through formal and informal networks; build capacity for effective law enforcement and prosecution; and ensure enough resources to ultimately stop the poaching of wildlife.

## Improving governance

The United Kingdom is the world's largest exporter of legal ivory, which stimulates consumer demand internationally. In 2017, Oak supported the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and a consortium of organisations to harness widespread public support for the UK Government to shut down domestic UK ivory markets.

An established organisation in combatting illegal wildlife trade, the EIA brings many actors on wildlife trade policy together at an international level. We believe that the EIA's collaborative approach is fundamental to building lasting solutions.

"In order to develop new policies to benefit the conservation field, we help cultivate trust between organisations and people at both international and regional levels," says Mary Rice, executive director of EIA.

Part of Oak's illegal wildlife trade strategy is to help build global capacity in a way that benefits the entire conservation sector. We support organisations that seek to advance knowledge, foster innovation and



# 65 %

of the major poaching syndicates in some areas of Tanzania have been disrupted, thanks to the work of PAMS Foundation.



© Christopher Parker/ Oak Foundation



© PAMIS Foundation

**Wildlife Conservation Society works globally to combat trafficking networks.**

leverage funding to serve this aim. This is done by: integrating conservation efforts into existing poverty and crime reduction programmes; sharing knowledge; and complementing private investments in conservation with leadership and collaboration.

## Linking global capacity

With programmes in nearly 60 countries, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) works globally to combat trafficking networks. It does this by increasing commitment for and improving the capacity of intelligence-led law enforcement. This is done by increasing expertise among enforcement authorities and institutions.

Oak supports WCS to strengthen civil society and government partnerships to combat rhino horn trafficking networks between Africa and Asia. WCS's Counter Wildlife Trafficking Unit will scale up civil society/government partnerships on both sides of the Indian Ocean. This will help ensure strategic, intelligence-led enforcement actions against suspected rhino horn traffickers operating between Mozambique, Vietnam and China. The need to combat the trafficking of rhino horn through Mozambique to southeast Asia is vital for the long-term survival of wild populations of African rhinoceros, particularly the critically endangered black rhino.

## Going forward

Oak is optimistic that the efforts of our partners will mean that future generations will grow up in a world where elephant and rhino roam freely and safely. Equally, by helping to weed out criminal activity along the wildlife trade supply chain, we hope that trailblazing conservation approaches will take root and flourish.

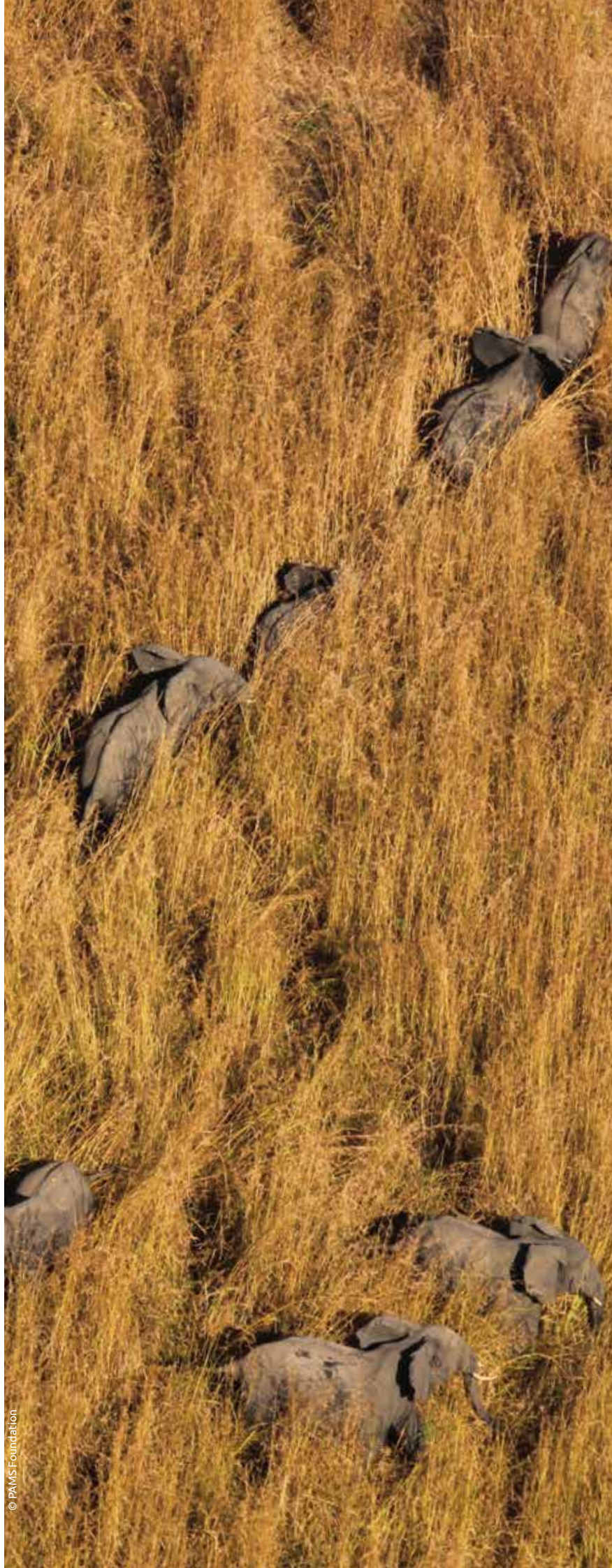
## Honouring Wayne Lotter

Oak Foundation was deeply saddened by the tragic death of Wayne Lotter in Tanzania in August 2017.

Wayne Lotter (featured in the photo above) was a co-founder of the PAMIS Foundation, one of our conservation partners in Tanzania. He was a passionate man who dedicated his life to saving wildlife and ensuring the end to an abominable illegal wildlife trade. He died a hero on the frontlines of this battle – and remains an inspiration to us all.



The photographs throughout the Environment Programme section of the report represent the work of the Illegal Wildlife Trade sub-Programme. This includes wildlife in their natural free-roaming habitats, a method of transporting wildlife products, and end-user products made from rhino horn.



# Grants



©Save the Rhino International

## Climate Change

### 350.org

**USD 1,500,000 (36 months)**

To stop or delay new fossil fuel infrastructure projects by supporting civil society and local groups to keep fossil fuels in the ground.

### Asset Owners Disclosure Project (AODP)

**USD 150,000 (24 months)**

To bring together the existing AODP data into a single unified disclosure framework and database and integrate this information into a new organisation.

### C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

**USD 3,000,000 (36 months)**

To enable megacities in Asia to lead and accelerate actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP)

**USD 699,966 (36 months)**

To provide core support to CSTEP to carry out independent, high-quality and timely research on key climate and energy policy reforms.

### ClimateWorks Foundation, USA

**USD 2,000,000 (48 months)**

To support the implementation of the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program by helping developing countries create standards and labels to improve the energy efficiency of refrigerators and air conditioners.

### ClimateWorks Foundation, USA

**USD 800,000 (24 months)**

To support organisations and initiatives that work to ensure the implementation of the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC.

### Dogwood Initiative

**USD 450,000 (36 months)**

To support the Dogwood Initiative to limit the expansion of fossil fuels in British Columbia.

### European Climate Foundation

**USD 250,000 (12 months)**

To provide core support to the European Climate Foundation to develop strategic communications capacity to help shape the narrative for climate action.

### European Climate Foundation

**USD 4,200,000 (36 months)**

To support the European Climate Foundation's mission to build European leadership on decarbonisation to secure a cleaner, safer and healthier future.

### European Climate Foundation

**USD 7,000,000 (36 months)**

To develop a European and South East Asian campaign to help countries meet their Paris climate targets.

### Instituto Centro de Vida

**USD 703,833 (34 months)**

To support a solid, reliable and recognised body of experts and activists in Brazil committed to the environmental and economic issues relating to energy production.

### Instituto Clima e Sociedade

**USD 1,146,671 (36 months)**

To support stronger Brazilian civil society action around climate change and other areas of social change.

### International Trade Union Confederation

**USD 500,000 (24 months)**

To initiate or support and document a just transition to low and zero emissions transport and mobility in at least five major cities worldwide.

### Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. (NRDC)

**USD 100,000 (12 months)**

To reduce air pollution in Ahmedabad, a city of seven million people in India, through public health and clean energy solutions, with strategies that can be scaled up to other cities, states and the national level.

### New Venture Fund

**USD 550,000 (24 months)**

To build a strong, diverse movement behind state-level adoption of progressive climate laws in the US to accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles.

### Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation

**USD 300,000 (24 months)**

To support energy conservation and efficiency in India, with a focus on policy design and stakeholder capacity building for timely policy implementation.

### WWF International

**USD 695,772 (36 months)**

To assist and accelerate China's economic transition towards a low-carbon development path and to guide the 'One Belt, One Road' Initiative in a green and sustainable direction.

## Marine

### Alaska Marine Conservation Council

**USD 600,000 (36 months)**

To promote the health and resilience of Alaska's marine ecosystems and the traditional coastal communities that rely on them.

### As You Sow

**USD 400,000 (36 months)**

To develop and lead a plastic solutions investor alliance.

### California Environmental Associates (two grants)

**USD 75,000 (7 months)**

To develop a new strategic plan for Oak's small-scale fisheries programme, including its accompanying monitoring, evaluation, learning and communications framework.

### Duke University

**USD 480,001 (29 months)**

To work with civil society organisations to map and design a needs assessment of small-scale fisheries.





© Karl Amman



© Naomi Doak/Royal Foundation

### **Environmental Justice Foundation**

**USD 905,580 (36 months)**

To assist the Environmental Justice Foundation and collaborators in Taiwan and Korea to harness political opportunities to create positive change on labour policy and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.

### **Fondation Ensemble**

**USD 1,595,745 (60 months)**

To scale up efforts to sustainably secure fishing resources and conserve marine biodiversity in Mozambique.

### **Funding Fish**

**USD 458,807 (41 months)**

To support Funding Fish with two endeavours – a campaign focused on implementing the Common Fisheries Policy in the EU, and a research and policy project to understand the complexities of fisheries access agreements between the EU and coastal states.

### **Greenpeace Fund, Inc**

**USD 900,000 (36 months)**

To stop the flow of plastic into the oceans by calling on global fast-moving consumer goods producers around the world to phase out single-use plastics.

### **International Collective in Support of Fishworkers**

**USD 94,255 (12 months)**

To strengthen the sustainability of small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication.

### **Pacific Environment**

**USD 305,822 (24 months)**

To help establish US domestic and international shipping regulations that protect the Arctic marine environment and the subsistence practices of local indigenous communities.

### **Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.**

**USD 1,950,000 (36 months)**

To rapidly escalate the availability of philanthropic funding through a funders' collaborative to organisations that can work strategically and internationally to meet and challenge the plastics crisis.

### **The Nature Conservancy**

**USD 1,000,000 (36 months)**

To tackle illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing at a global level with a special focus on policy in Japan.

### **The Ocean Conservancy**

**USD 800,000 (36 months)**

To increase the US Arctic's resilience in the face of climate change by preserving important safeguards that protect the region from renewed oil and gas exploration.

### **Wildlife Conservation Society**

**USD 399,839 (36 months)**

To support Alaska Natives in articulating their needs relating to sustainable marine mammal hunting – the cornerstone of the food and economic security of Arctic indigenous communities.

### **WWF International**

**USD 105,000 (12 months)**

To undertake a study in Zhejiang and Hainan in China to identify challenges and opportunities for smallscale fisheries.

## **Illegal Wildlife Trade**

### **Environmental Investigation Agency**

**USD 91,809 (18 months)**

To build global capacity to tackle illegal wildlife trade by working to secure the closure of domestic ivory markets in the UK.

### **Frankfurt Zoological Society**

**USD 200,200 (12 months)**

To support the co-management model of the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust and its work in Gonarezhou National Park, Zimbabwe's second-largest national park.

### **Gorongosa Restoration Project Inc**

**USD 600,000 (24 months)**

To establish more than two million hectares of protected area and buffer zone in central Mozambique as part of restoring a large contiguous landscape damaged from two decades of civil war and ensuring a better life for local people.

### **International Wildlife Trust**

**USD 875,000 (36 months)**

To build capacity for effective law enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crimes by leveraging US legislative tools against transnational criminal organisations, exploiting investigative information on criminal networks and working alongside US officials.

### **Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. (NRDC)**

**USD 200,000 (24 months)**

To assist the Chinese Government in implementing its ban on domestic elephant ivory sales and to reduce pressure on other illegally traded wildlife species including rhinos and pangolins.

### **Tier im Recht**

**USD 198,020 (36 months)**

To improve wildlife crime law in German-speaking European countries and to establish a global hub for legal expertise around protecting wildlife.

### **Tikki Hywood Trust**

**USD 192,250 (36 months)**

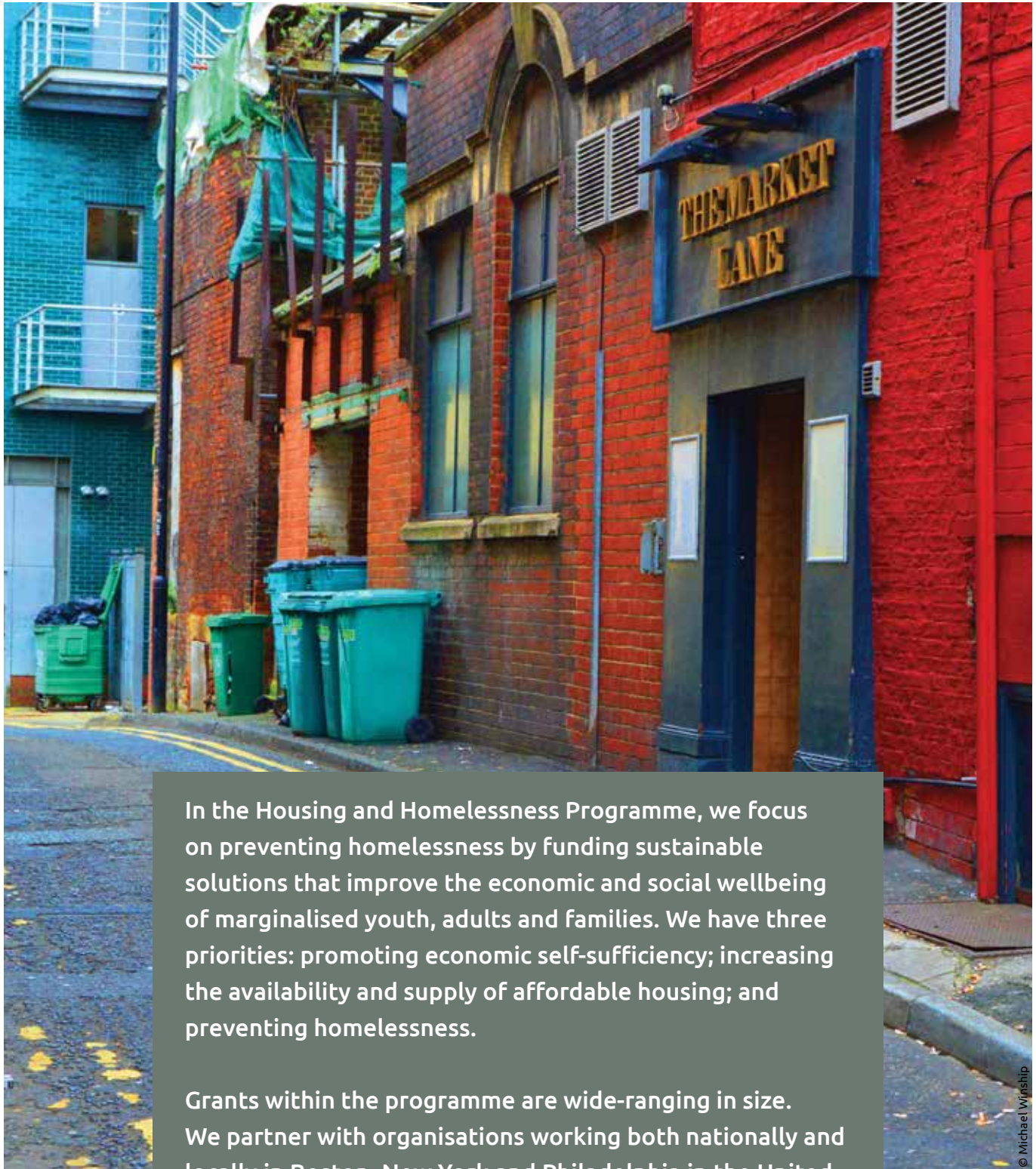
To establish a pangolin rehabilitation programme.

### **Wildlife Conservation Society**

**USD 1,353,123 (24 months)**

To strengthen civil society and government partnerships to combat rhino horn trafficking networks between Africa and China.

# Housing and Homelessness



In the Housing and Homelessness Programme, we focus on preventing homelessness by funding sustainable solutions that improve the economic and social wellbeing of marginalised youth, adults and families. We have three priorities: promoting economic self-sufficiency; increasing the availability and supply of affordable housing; and preventing homelessness.

Grants within the programme are wide-ranging in size. We partner with organisations working both nationally and locally in Boston, New York and Philadelphia in the United States and in Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London and South Wales in the United Kingdom. Within each location, we aim to fund projects relevant to the three priorities mentioned above. In addition, we have adopted specific objectives that recognise particular issues in some of the localities where we make grants.



© Sam Youngman

## Reflections

2017 was another busy year for the Housing and Homelessness Programme (HHP). There have been recent changes in our team – at the end of the year Susanne Bjork joined us as our fourth programme officer. Her work with Crisis UK, as well as refugee camps in Serbia and the International Women’s Peace Service in Palestine, is directly relevant to our work.

In addition, we began an internship engagement with Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick’s team at Heriot Watt University, where the Institute for Social Policy, Housing, Equalities Research (I-SPHERE) leads homelessness research in the UK and beyond.

Each internship will last for six months. It allows interns to work from home and join the team at Oak’s offices in the London office regularly. This work pattern enables interns to be drawn from across the UK, reflecting the footprint of the programme. The opportunity is being publicised through university networks.

As well as providing research capacity for the team, interns carry out research projects which are relevant to the HHP strategy. Our first intern, Lynne McMordie lives in Northern Ireland. She holds a Masters from Queens University Belfast and has worked for several not-for-profit organisations.

Lynne took a career break and this internship provides her with an interesting opportunity to continue her work in the homelessness sector. Lynne’s research will explore the lived experience of being homeless and being

allocated temporary accommodation in unfamiliar locations.

Looking outwards, despite challenging economic and political times, our partners in the both the UK and the US continue to achieve important policy changes. During the year we talked to some of those who led on these victories and asked them to tell us what they thought were the keys to success – collaboration features throughout all of these conversations. Often referenced in philanthropy, perhaps the word “collaboration” is becoming overused, with little thought to what it means in practice.

Nonetheless, these conversations tell us that strong, deep and sustained collaboration is key to successfully bringing about change in these challenging times. True collaboration requires power-sharing and a willingness to work with those who might ordinarily be the opposition. We also learned that basing campaigns on universally accepted principles or values is an effective way of helping to change people’s perspectives.

In this year’s Annual Report, our theme article focuses on this subject. We will publish more on our website in 2018 around the collaborative work of several other partners. This has led to ground-breaking changes – bringing improved housing opportunities to those who need them most.

# 35

**grants were made by the Housing and Homelessness Programme in 2017, totalling USD 24.10 million.**



Find out more at  
[www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)



# Collaboration makes for powerful change

## United Kingdom

The Homeless Persons Act was established in the United Kingdom 40 years ago, following a decade of campaigning. This act sets out what councils across the UK must do to help homeless people and gives the right to accommodation to some households. While local authorities have a duty to find accommodation for homeless families and those assessed as 'vulnerable', those who fall outside of these groups receive limited or perhaps no help at all.

Over the last four decades this has affected single homeless people the most, and homeless organisations have encountered many difficulties in addressing the consequences of the exclusion of single people in the Homeless Persons Act. This is why **Crisis**, a UK-based homelessness organisation that focuses on single homeless people, led a campaign to change the law. Three years of campaigning led to victory – the Homelessness Reduction Act, which came into force in April 2018. Under the new act, councils are obliged to step in and offer some help to all people – single or with families – threatened with losing their home.

“We are pleased with the results of the Crisis campaign, which will doubtlessly benefit the lives of many people who experience homelessness for years to come.”

- Louise Montgomery  
Programme Officer, Housing and Homelessness Programme

“This was an example of a well-thought out campaign that has resulted in changing UK legislation to reflect the principle that everyone deserves help,” says Louise.

Matt Downie, director of policy and external affairs at Crisis, described the new act as radically shifting the way we see homeless people. “Now, we can no longer see the homeless as either deserving or undeserving of support,” he says. “Embedded in the law is a universal principle – that everyone who is homeless should get some assistance, and that everyone threatened with homelessness should be offered help to prevent it.”

So what made the Crisis campaign a success? Firstly, according to Matt, it was driven and evidenced by people with personal experience of homelessness. A group of these people presented themselves as homeless to 87 local authorities across the UK, describing scenarios based on their own experiences. This exercise provided powerful evidence – that they were not offered any help in many cases. Sometimes they were even treated in an off-hand or inhumane way.

Nonetheless, their compelling stories captured media attention. As the campaign progressed, opportunities arose where individuals with experience of homelessness were able to speak directly with government ministers. One woman went to the House of Commons to talk to politicians directly from Heathrow Airport, where she was sleeping each night. This involvement of people with personal experience, according to Matt, provided real and immediate evidence, which was key to the success of the campaign.

“In addition, Crisis set about drafting the new law rather than waiting until we had political support,” he says. “We did this by bringing together acknowledged experts, including lawyers, academics and not-for-profit organisations.” Crisis also made sure that stakeholders who might resist the change were involved, such as those who were concerned that opening a debate about housing legislation in times of austerity might result in a contraction of government responsibilities.

The proposed changes in law meant additional responsibility for local authorities. Crisis tackled this head on by identifying local authority representatives who realised the benefits these changes would bring,

despite the extra work. Together, they identified a set of objectives, points for potential compromise and fundamental principles not open for negotiation.

The result of this collaborative exercise was a draft law with credibility, supported by all the key actors in the field of homelessness. Crucially, it was not seen as a Crisis campaigning tool but as an independent analysis of the problem and a proposed solution, complete with ready-made draft legislation. Matt makes the point that while this consensus approach to campaigning is powerful, the lead organisation must be willing to relinquish control to achieve it.

Also key to its success was the fact that Crisis was able to persuade Conservative Minister of Parliament (MP) Bob Blackman to present the new legislation. Mr Blackman proved to be an effective champion and was instrumental in obtaining support from ministers and fellow MPs from all parties.

## United States

**The Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania** is a state-wide coalition providing leadership and a common voice for policies, practices and resources to ensure that all Pennsylvanians, especially those with low incomes, have access to safe, decent and affordable homes. Over three years the Alliance used an Oak grant to build a campaign to establish ongoing funding for the State Housing Trust Fund – which is a designated form of revenue for affordable housing.

The Housing Alliance wanted state legislation to secure income from the real estate transfer tax (projected to grow to USD 25 million a year) for affordable housing initiatives. Its work resulted in a huge success – legislation was passed in 2015 and initial funding of USD 12.5 million was made available in 2017. “This was the first new funding for affordable housing in the state for many years,” says Liz Hersh, former director of the Housing Alliance, who led the campaign. “In addition, the funding is flexible, recognising the need for diverse solutions and local decisions on how money is spent.”

**Crisis UK's campaign brought about the Homelessness Reduction Act, which came into force in April 2018.**



© Hazel Stanley

### The Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania's campaign resulted in the expansion of the State Housing Trust Fund.

This will benefit people in need of affordable housing.

"The campaign was successful because the Alliance established a grassroots coalition made up of local organisations and individuals," she says. "We were careful to ensure that all parts of the state of Pennsylvania were represented. This meant that everyone – from grassroots organisers to for-profit developers – was represented. The campaign bridged the traditional divides between urban, suburban and rural communities."

When planning its strategy, the Alliance took advice from marketing experts. The team learned that outlining the problem and proposing a solution are not always effective. Instead, to garner support for affordable housing, it based its campaign on the generally accepted American value statement that 'if you work hard and play by the rules you should be able to afford a home'. This is often not true. In reality, not everyone who works hard and plays by the rules can afford a home. The campaign succeeded in changing the perception of the need for affordable housing among the public.

In addition, by building its campaign on this simple message, it increased bi-partisan political support. On the political front, there were many people involved. This included highly respected moderate Republican Legislator Tom Killion, who partnered with Democrats on the campaign. In the State Senate, Senator Elder Vogel, a Republican dairy farmer, represented a rural part of the state. Democrat Senator Shirley Kitchen (one of just two African American women to be elected to the State Senate) represented a neighbourhood

of Philadelphia. Together they joined hands to promote funding for the Housing Trust Fund. As a result of their efforts, the State Housing Trust Fund was expanded.

**"This campaign succeeded in uniting politicians representing many people in Pennsylvania around the issue of affordable housing. The result will bring widespread changes to the lives of individuals and benefit Pennsylvanian communities for many years to come."**

**- Amanda Beswick  
Director, Housing and  
Homelessness Programme**

### How changes in law can work for those most in need

These examples from both sides of the Atlantic are success stories in the fight against homelessness. They demonstrate how well-crafted campaigns can bring about changes in law and policy and have wide-reaching ramifications for people's lives.

We intend to outline other examples of our partners' work on our website. Check out our highlights page on [www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org) throughout 2018!



## Photo art UK

The photos throughout the Housing and Homelessness Programme section of the 2017 report were taken by people who have experienced homelessness. They are displayed in Crisis' online art gallery.

We have included some of the stories of the artists here.

### Michael – author of image on p24

Inspired by British amateur photographer Jimmy Forsyth, Michael Winship captured this image of a street in Newcastle. He walks past it every day and has slept rough on this street in a shop doorway on a number of occasions.

"I decided to use Photoshop to really boost the colours/saturation so that it would resemble a more attractive place to sleep whilst hanging onto an area with a little edge," he says.

### Toby – author of image on p26

In "Roman Home Door", Toby Hopkins tried to create a self-portrait using his own shadow cast on one of the doors at the base of the Tyne Bridge in Newcastle.

The image was inspired by photographer Vivien Maier, an American street photographer. Maier worked for about 40 years as a nanny, mostly in Chicago's North Shore, pursuing photography in her spare time. During her lifetime she took more than 150,000 photographs, primarily of the people and architecture of New York City, Chicago and Los

Angeles. She did a series of self-portraits using shop windows and reflective surfaces.

### Hazel – author of image on p28

Since engaging in Crisis services, Hazel took up several courses, including one in photography. She has taken many photos and her photo was taken on the streets of Sheffield.

“For this photo I had to lay on the ground. I wrote a poem as a result of this course, which I have called 'Memories'. Because photography made me realise how important it is to see different images as they are. The memories I can take to my grave, whereas money is only worth something while you are alive. So my quote for this image is 'feel what's around you and capture those memories'.”

- Hazel Stanley  
Artist

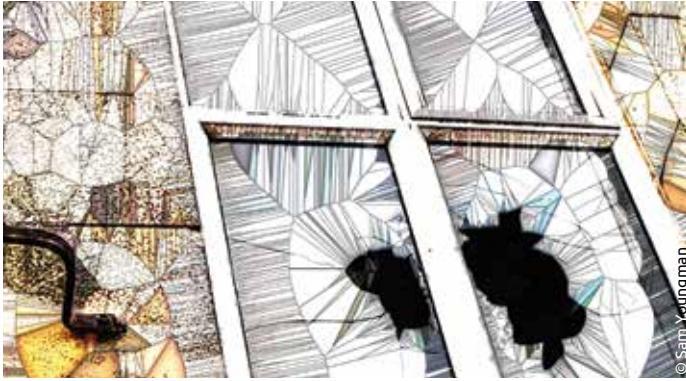
"The reason why I took this photo was because I like the texture that can be created visually," she says. "I was also experimenting with taking pictures from different angles."

Oak and the Housing and Homelessness team congratulates all of the photographers on their achievements.

Crisis UK's online gallery features work of photographers who have experienced homelessness. We have featured some examples of their work in this year's Annual Report.

<https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/art-in-crisis-gallery/>

# Grants



## Economic self-sufficiency

### Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke on Trent

**USD 90,856 (12 months)**  
To enable the North Staffordshire Financial Inclusion Group in the UK to research and implement a business development plan.

**Good Faith Partnership**  
**USD 123,750 (5 months)**  
To scope the affordable credit landscape across the UK.

**Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP)**  
**USD 324,000 (36 months)**  
To expand HAP's SOAR Project to secure rapid Supplemental Security Income benefits (SSI/SSDI) for vulnerable individuals in Philadelphia.

**Social Market Foundation**  
**USD 157,501 (34 months)**  
To influence policy makers in the UK to implement changes to the benefit sanctions system.

**Women Against Abuse (WAA)**  
**USD 800,000 (48 months)**  
To enable WAA to develop, implement and embed a new Economic Empowerment Project aimed at reducing homelessness and increasing long-term economic stability for women and children who experience domestic abuse.

**Working Chance**  
**USD 1,000,000 (48 months)**  
To provide core support to Working Chance to expand its service delivery into the North of England and to develop its care leavers service.

## Homelessness prevention

**Anawim**  
**USD 499,345 (36 months)**  
To provide mental health, domestic abuse and sexual violence support services to vulnerable women in the UK to prevent them from becoming homeless.

**Butler Family Fund**  
**USD 1,762,000 (48 months)**  
To capture savings from the criminal justice system in the US and redirect towards housing and other services that support prisoner re-entry.

**Crisis UK**  
**USD 797,523 (36 months)**  
To support local authorities in the UK and others to effectively interpret and implement their new legal duties within the Homelessness Reduction Act.

**Cymorth Cymru**  
**USD 119,611 (24 months)**  
To establish an evidence base to strengthen the case for investment in supported housing and community support services across Wales, which demonstrate the positive impact on public services (such as health, housing, criminal justice).

**Generation Rent**  
**USD 226,674 (36 months)**  
To expand Generation Rent's campaigns in London and nationally, with a focus on combating 'no fault' evictions, limiting rent rises, improving security of tenure and supporting renters to exercise their rights against criminal landlords.

**Glasgow Homelessness Network (GHN)**  
**USD 375,000 (48 months)**  
To provide core support to GHN, which works with and for people affected by homelessness in Glasgow, Scotland.

**Govan Law Centre (GLC)**  
**USD 1,250,000 (60 months)**  
To provide core support to GLC to support its strategic plan and mission.

**Hestia Housing and Support**  
**USD 76,883 (12 months)**  
To implement a new model of work throughout Hestia Housing and Support, which will enable Hestia staff to work in a more clearly defined and intentional way with vulnerable people.

**Lambeth Law Centre**  
**USD 370,888 (36 months)**  
To ensure people from the European Economic Area receive access to specialist legal representation to prevent their forcible removal because they are rough sleeping.

**Philadelphia VIP**  
**USD 1,000,000 (48 months)**  
To provide core support to Philadelphia VIP, a pro bono legal services agency providing free legal advocacy and representation to low-income people to prevent homelessness and preserve income.

**Refugee and Migrant Centre (RMC)**  
**USD 500,000 (48 months)**  
To provide core support to RMC, which supports asylum seekers, migrants and refugees in Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

**Tides Foundation**  
**USD 493,440 (48 months)**  
To build relationships between people living in mobile homes (also known as manufactured homeowners) in the US, who number more than 9 million mainly low-income people in approximately 50,000 land-lease sites.

**Women's Aid**  
**USD 627,245 (36 months)**  
To provide support to domestic abuse services in the United Kingdom so that they become more sustainable and their organisational and financial stability are increased.





© Ann Fraser

## Increasing the supply of low-income housing

### Center for Community Change

**USD 800,000 (60 months)**

To provide core support to the Housing Trust Fund Project, which works to secure sources of public funding to develop and support low-income housing in the United States.

### Center for Community Progress

**USD 100,000 (12 months)**

To strengthen residents' and grassroots activists' abilities to revitalise their neighbourhoods.

### Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA)

**USD 1,500,000 (60 months)**

To provide core support to CHAPA, based in the US, to achieve the goals set out in its strategic plan.

### Clarifi

**USD 2,741,049 (39 months)**

To continue to preserve affordable housing and improve people's health by improving housing conditions in thousands of privately owned rowhouses in Philadelphia.

### Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)

**USD 1,200,000 (60 months)**

To provide core support to the CSH to enable it to meet the objectives of its strategic plan and mission.

### Empty Homes

**USD 100,000 (12 months)**

To enable Empty Homes, a UK-based not-for-profit organisation, to campaign for changes in policy that increase the supply of affordable homes from vacant properties and tackle the waste of empty homes.

### Enterprise Community Partners

**USD 100,000 (14 months)**

To raise up voices, develop narratives and broaden coalitions engaged in affordable housing.

### Homes for Families

**USD 328,755 (36 months)**

To end family homelessness in Massachusetts by amplifying the voices of homeless families to highlight systemic barriers and gaps in services.

### New Economics Foundation

**USD 349,975 (36 months)**

To increase the amount of good-quality, low-cost housing in the UK.

### New Venture Fund

**USD 1,499,859 (36 months)**

To support Funders for Housing and Opportunity, a new funders collaborative to improve the lives of more than 12 million renter households who pay more than half of their income on housing or who are homeless.

### Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations (PACDC)

**USD 1,125,000 (60 months)**

To provide core support to PACDC, based in the US, to achieve the goals set out in its strategic plan.

### Trust for London

**USD 1,331,191 (36 months)**

To improve the quality, stability and affordability of private sector housing for low-income households in London.

### Institute for Voluntary Action Research

**USD 113,945 (36 months)**

To improve practice and strategic learning in UK foundations by funding an Evaluation Roundtable to provide foundation leaders with an opportunity to refine and deepen their thinking and practice.

## Other

### UK Community Foundations

**USD 1,734,250 (36 months)**

To address local housing and homelessness issues in specific regions of the UK by providing grassroots organisations with development grants to build sustainability, develop ideas and deploy innovative solutions.

## Learning

### Coaching Inside and Out

**USD 81,094 (12 months)**

To provide evidence on the efficacy of coaching as a tool to improve outcomes for people, including increased housing stability and economic wellbeing.

### Community Service Society of New York (CSS)

**USD 400,000 (36 months)**

To incorporate issues relating to homelessness into CSS's annual survey of low-income New Yorkers, in order to: drive its legislative agenda; influence programme design; and provide data to help advance progressive solutions.



This is a list of grants approved in 2017. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our website at [www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)

# International Human Rights



Since 1948 the international community has developed an extensive body of international legal standards and institutions that relate to the promotion and protection of human rights. However, there remains a gap between the theory and the realisation of these rights in practice.

In the International Human Rights Programme (IHRP), we work with partners to: end impunity for the gross violations of human rights; uphold prohibitions on arbitrary detention and torture; protect human rights defenders at risk; and multiply and amplify influential voices on IHRP global priorities.



## Reflections

In previous years we could assert with some confidence that the programme had secured significant advances in human rights protection – from the prosecution of gross abusers to the dismantling of abusive detention regimes and the repudiation of torture as a legitimate function of state. In addition, we had nurtured the growth and professionalisation of partners all around the world.

We can no longer assert that claim with equal confidence.

Certainly, advances have been made, but they are increasingly modest in both ambition and scale. Grantees have secured impressive individual accomplishments, including signature court wins (especially in Strasbourg) and some policy advances. But on the whole, these wins have been diffuse and episodic, seldom delivering systemic change.

Instead, victory is now measured in terms of preventing harm: stalling, frustrating and disrupting retrograde laws and policy. In all places where we operate – including the United States, the European Union, Russia, Brazil, India and Myanmar – the human rights community is on the defensive.

Our detractors urge an increasingly muscular response to a dangerous world. The state is urged to wield greater power in its pursuit of national security and the defence of its borders, including from unregulated people flows. In Brazil, Russia and Myanmar there are insistent demands for a tough “law-and-order” approach to guarantee

public security. This comes in the face of galloping crime and insurgency – with the knock-on effect of suppressing public protest. Entrenched vested interests grow ever more resistant to those who seek to hold them to account – whether through the press, the ballot box or even the courts.

That consistency – across all regions where we work – is striking. Yet, while we strive for incremental gains, our paramount interest now lies in defending the expression and legitimacy of civic activism. That fundamental goal has guided our work over the past year. And in the face of these challenges, civil society remains both defiant and effective.



**P32:** Tactical Tech is working to raise awareness of the threats posed by our increasingly online lives.

**P33:** In the past 20 years, Brazil’s prison population has grown 400 per cent. Our partners, such as **Conectas** and the **Criminal Justice Network**, work to address this and raise awareness around this issue.

# 55

grants were made by the International Human Rights Programme in 2017, totalling USD 25.16 million.



Find out more at  
[www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)



## Are you talking to me?

In an affluent São Paulo shopping mall, puzzled shoppers are greeted with a curious scene.

In the middle of the mall, among the shop windows showcasing phones and fashion, there is a large cage. Shoppers are invited to enter the space and put on a set of 360 degrees virtual reality goggles. Then, their world is transformed into a local prison cell. Through the virtual headset, they experience firsthand this alien environment, guided by an ex-prisoner who recounts his dismal experience of incarceration. It is shocking and confronting, but engaging.

“Many people are unaware of the dreadful, violent and unsanitary conditions in Brazilian prisons. Disease is rife. The sewer systems often clog. There can be 40 people living in a room designed for 12. And ... you might never even be convicted. It takes years sometimes to get a hearing.”

- Adrian Arena  
Director, International Human Rights Programme

Often, people have never previously witnessed this appalling national reality and are clearly troubled by what they see. Some begin to question long-held views on the merit of Brazil’s mass incarceration policy, which has seen its prison population climb to the fourth highest in the world – and at a great social cost. In a further surprise, shoppers come face to face with the narrator, the ex-prisoner. It is at this point that their assumption about who and why people end up on the “inside” is turned on its head. For some, it is an epiphany.

In the past 20 years, Brazil's prison population has grown 400 per cent, yet the country's actual population has increased by only 36 per cent in the same period.<sup>1</sup> According to the National Council of Justice, as of February 2017 there were over 600,000 people incarcerated in Brazil. Among them, more than 220,000 are still awaiting trial – that waiting period varies between 172 and 974 days.<sup>2,3</sup>

This virtual example of prison life from the **Criminal Justice Network** in Brazil is typical of a wave of innovations in communications currently being explored by Oak's partners around the world. The many objectives are, in essence, simple: to engage and persuade new audiences around issues of injustice.

For too long, many human rights organisations followed a traditional work model that went something like this: conduct rigorous research; publish a report; secure press coverage; and target relevant policy makers. Mission accomplished.

But in an age of declining traction with both media and policy elites, activists have had to think creatively about how to frame, disseminate and promote calls for change. And in doing so, how to establish wider constituencies of support beyond a narrow circle of 'natural' allies.

## Framing the message

Around the world, human rights activists increasingly recognise the limitations of legal and fact-heavy policy arguments to promote change. Through public opinion polling and deployment of cognitive science, they are now framing their messages to ensure greater emotional resonance with a wider audience. Central to this approach is an appeal to commonly-held values.

As the communications hub **Opportunity Agenda** knows, "Communications and culture have the power to move hearts and minds in ways that facts and advocacy often cannot." To this end, it helped train field groups to counter a powerful fear-based anti-immigrant narrative in the United

States. Opportunity Agenda's messaging emphasised: deeply held US values of fairness and opportunity for all; flawed immigration policies as the problem and not immigration itself; specific calls for common-sense solutions that allow everyone to contribute; and its call for action – moving communities and the country forward, together.



"Communications and culture have the power to move hearts and minds in ways that facts and advocacy often cannot."

- Opportunity Agenda

In Britain, **Liberty** campaigns for human rights. In the past, its public positioning reflected its legal niche and support base of lawyers. Its current pitch is, however, discernibly different, invoking a national self-belief around kindness, courtesy and fairness – which are widely regarded as a central to British culture. By asserting those traits as essential features of public policy, Liberty seeks to shift the prevailing negative public discourse on immigration and minority rights. "Keep Britain Kind" is the public face of this values-based campaign, aimed at ensuring a more open, tolerant Britain and reasserting "decency, compassion and fairness" in UK politics.

Human rights principles and international law will always underpin these campaigns. But their presentation, through a positive affirmation of core values, speaks to a wider audience and builds support for those who remain undeclared in the swirling debates around immigration, identity and culture.



**P34:** Through a virtual headset, customers in a Brazilian shopping mall are invited to experience firsthand conditions in a prison cell. This is part of the work by the **Criminal Justice Network** in a bid to raise awareness of the shocking conditions of prisons in the country.

For more information on the virtual prison, check out this link: <http://prisaonaoe-justica.org/>

Or to experience it yourself, go to this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulURfliX-2kE>



**Tactical Tech developed the Glass Room exhibit in London. It aims to reveal how much of our personal data is captured by digital consumer products. It shows us how to minimise our digital footprint.**

## Telling the story

Other grantees have started to deploy video, music, street art, film, cartoons, technology and immersive theatre to engage with new audiences, especially the young. Satire and humour are especially effective connectors, and new partnerships with the creative sector are delivering real dividends.

In Chechnya in the North Caucasus, a recent wave of arrests and detentions have resulted in the extrajudicial killings of scores of gay men. Our partners have collectively denounced these abuses and courageously organised the rescue of those at greatest risk. But, unusually, efforts were also made to inform the Russian public of the scale and horror of what was happening. A brief animation film, narrating the story of one victim and produced by **LGBT Network** was widely circulated on social media.

The clip's innovative design and profound personal testimony garnered attention in a way that no report could have, thus prompting public discussion on the violence – official and public – directed at LGBTI people.

Mixing art and technology, Berlin-based grantee **Tactical Tech** is shifting the narrative around digital security to raise awareness of the threats posed by our increasingly online lives. In partnership with Mozilla, it developed the Glass Room exhibit in London, an immersive 'tech store with a twist'. At first glance, the exhibit looks like a store offering

the latest in digital consumer products – tablets, fitness trackers or facial recognition software. But as visitors enter, the Glass Room prompts reflection, experimentation and play, by revealing how much of our personal data is captured by these same devices. The exhibit challenges us to consider the collection, ownership and deployment of that data. In response it also shows us how to minimise our digital footprint.

## Independent media

Even the best-designed communication strategy will fail if there is no public platform from which to amplify campaigns. While activists traditionally relied on the mainstream press to give life to their reports, that avenue of influence is increasingly closing. We are finding that for various reasons, the voices of many activists are being frozen out of mainstream press.

In response, we are exploring independent media outlets to elevate civil society concerns. Our engagement has a twofold purpose: to raise grantee voices; and to ensure citizens' rights to information. To this end, we are partnering with independent media outlets to report straight news, and also to pursue opinion, explanatory and investigative journalism.

In Russia, we support **Media Zona**, which reports on criminal justice. It informs by



reporting court stories which, given their political sensitivity, would not ordinarily be covered. Through games, quizzes and features, it educates readers about their rights (what to do if arrested? Can I ask for a lawyer? etc). It investigates abuses in the penitentiary system, including the criminal exploitation of inmates by prison staff. It is fulfilling a vital public function.

In Britain, we support **Rights Info** – an award-winning outlet which explains topical news stories through a human rights lens. Through accurate, accessible and engaging online content, it seeks to counter negative press comments on human rights and, at the same time, promotes education.

## Raising awareness of human rights

People need to understand their rights in order to celebrate and protect them. While clear, engaging communication must speak to existing supporters, it must also reach out to those in the middle who are open to hearing another point of view.

This is why we are working to build a base of knowledgeable, engaged human rights advocates and a broader base of support for our work.

**Independent media outlets are best poised to elevate civil society concerns. By raising our partners' voices, we hope to ensure citizens' rights to information.**



**P36 and P37:** Digital consumer products – tablets, fitness trackers or facial recognition software – have transformed our world. But many people are not aware how much of our personal data is captured by these same devices. Tactical Tech is working to raise awareness of the threats posed by our increasingly online lives. In partnership with Mozilla, it developed the Glass Room exhibit in London which challenges us to consider the collection, ownership and deployment of that data.

# Grants

## Ending impunity for gross human rights violations

### Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran USD 880,000 (48 months)

To preserve memory and to support efforts towards truth, justice and accountability for gross violations of human rights in Iran by maintaining an online memorial to victims of persecution and political violence.

### Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) USD 2,500,000 (36 months)

To provide core support to help EAAF apply forensic anthropology and related sciences to investigations of gross human rights violations.

### Business and Human Rights Resource Centre USD 450,000 (48 months)

To support the corporate legal accountability portal, an online database of litigation efforts that seeks to: empower advocates so that they can hold corporates to account; strengthen legal protections to better protect victims of abuse; and drive forward the global debate on accountability for corporate human rights impacts.

### Centre for Studies on Truth, Memory and Justice USD 600,000 (36 months)

To uncover the truth about grave violations of human rights in Turkey, strengthen collective memory of those violations and support survivors and other actors in their pursuit of justice.

### Civitas Maxima USD 490,099 (36 months)

To gather evidence on serious crimes in selected jurisdictions and pursue accountability on behalf of victims in national and international fora.

### European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC) USD 450,000 (36 months)

To provide core support to EHRAC to challenge impunity for human rights violations by building the capacity of lawyers in Russia, Ukraine and the South Caucasus to litigate strategic cases before the European Court of Human Rights and other international bodies.

### Impunity Watch USD 531,338 (36 months)

To support Impunity Watch's efforts to strengthen its functioning, in particular in the areas of communications, monitoring and evaluation and fundraising.

### Institute for International Criminal Investigations USD 494,681 (36 months)

To provide core support to train human rights activists and non-governmental organisations to investigate and document international crimes.

### Memoria Abierta USD 717,807 (48 months)

To strengthen Memoria Abierta's role regionally and internationally by sharing its expertise with communities who have experienced gross violations of human rights.

### New Venture Fund USD 600,000 (36 months)

To support the Sage Fund's efforts to create in human rights accountability for economic actors by spurring innovation and building greater field capacity in the human rights movement.

### Rights Watch (UK) USD 500,000 (36 months)

To counter abusive practices and policies that violate fundamental rights, in particular in relation to the measures taken by states in pursuit of national security and in conflict.

### Russian Justice Initiative (RJI) USD 489,362 (36 months)

To provide core support to RJI to protect and assist the victims of human rights violations related to armed conflicts and counter-terrorism operations, as well as torture and gender-based violence in post-Soviet regions.

### SITU Studio USD 300,000 (36 months)

To work with human rights organisations and courts to present evidence more persuasively and effectively through the application of spatial analysis and visualisation.

### TRIAL International USD 445,545 (36 months)

To challenge the impunity of individuals and corporate actors involved in gross human rights violations and secure redress for the victims of these crimes.

### TrustAfrica USD 600,000 (36 months)

To build a strong anti-impunity movement across Africa by strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations to contribute to transitional justice policy at national level.

### VoxBox, Inc. USD 100,000 (12 months)

To support the development of Memria – an online social platform that collects and stores important or meaningful personal narrative accounts from a variety of audiences.

## Freedom from arbitrary detention and torture

### American Civil Liberties Union Inc. USD 1,200,000 (14 months)

To support due process rights and to protect individual liberties in the context of immigration, national security and protest.

### American University Washington College of Law USD 210,000 (36 months)

To support the efforts of the Anti-Torture Initiative to uphold the international prohibition on torture, through a programme of research, advocacy, education and technical assistance.

### Coalizione Italiana Liberta e Diritti Civili USD 436,170 (36 months)

To support a coalition of Italian non-governmental organisations working to improve immigrant and refugee rights, criminal justice, equality, national security and privacy rights.

### Global Detention Project USD 250,000 (24 months)

To ensure that asylum seekers, undocumented migrants and refugees are treated with dignity and respect when in official custody.

### Human Rights First USD 250,000 (12 months)

To advocate for a rights-respecting US asylum system and an end to abusive immigration enforcement and detention practices, and to ensure US counter-terrorism policies related to detention, fair trials and targeted killings are in line with human rights standards.

### Hungarian Helsinki Committee USD 650,000 (36 months)

To reduce arbitrary detention and ill treatment in the context of immigration/ asylum procedures and the criminal justice system in Hungary.

### Instituto Pro Bono USD 100,000 (12 months)

To provide core support to Instituto Pro Bono for its development of a pro bono legal sector in Brazil.



**Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT)**  
**USD 594,059 (36 months)**

To strengthen OMCT's communications and network capacity and increase the effectiveness, visibility and reach of its advocacy in the fight against torture.

**Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants**  
**USD 319,149 (36 months)**

To seek improvements in EU policy, legislation and national level practice, in regard to undocumented migrants.

**Relieve**  
**USD 250,000 (17 months)**

To promote accountability and pursue strategic initiatives to end abuses committed in the 'War on Terror'.

## Supporting and protecting human rights defenders

**CEELI Institute**  
**USD 245,000 (24 months)**

To support the efforts of the Russian bar to increase its professional competencies, through research and professional opportunities in Prague.

**European Center for Not for Profit Law**  
**USD 249,984 (24 months)**

To work with partners to empower civil society organisations to counter attacks on their operating space and freedom of association, assembly and expression, inspired by counter-terrorism financing and anti-money laundering policies, including those related to the Financial Action Task Force.

**Fund For Global Human Rights**  
**USD 500,000 (12 months)**

To provide financial resources and capacity-building support to human rights organisations in the Global South and East.

**Human Rights Watch**  
**USD 917,000 (8 months)**

To ensure Brazil, India, Russia, South Africa and Thailand become positive forces for advancing a global human rights agenda, while respecting human rights at home.

**International Civil Society Centre**  
**USD 212,766 (12 months)**

To strengthen advocacy in defence of civic participation and civic society rights through the promotion and use of the Civic Charter.

**Legal and Social Support Charity Foundation "Sphere"**  
**USD 300,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to the Russian LGBT Network "Sphere".

**Partners Asia**  
**USD 1,150,000 (12 months)**

To promote social justice, the rule of law and respect for human rights in Myanmar through direct grant-making and capacity-building support to local organisations.

**Prague Civil Society Centre**  
**USD 1,200,000 (24 months)**

To support civil society in the former USSR (not including the Baltics) through financial support, capacity building, leadership development and fostering innovation.

**Privacy International**  
**USD 375,000 (36 months)**

To challenge new forms of state surveillance, the transfer of surveillance capabilities across borders and the exploitation of data that threatens the security and safe operating of civil society.

**Tactical Technology Collective**  
**USD 702,128 (36 months)**

To provide core support to the Tactical Technology Collective to advance the skills, tools and techniques of human rights activists.

**The Engine Room**  
**USD 450,000 (36 months)**

To consolidate the organisational development of the Engine Room and expand its support to human rights activists to integrate data and technology safely and effectively into their work.

**Witness Inc**  
**USD 400,000 (17 months)**

To support the implementation of Witness' new expanded strategy over the next 18 months and assist in its regionalisation process.

## Broadening human rights constituencies

**Arab Human Rights Fund (AHRF)**  
**USD 248,484 (10 months)**

To assist AHRF in its restructuring process and support its fundraising strategy to build financial stability.

**Assifero**  
**USD 100,000 (17 months)**

To provide core support to Assifero, an affinity group of Italian foundations, with a view to promoting strategic philanthropy in Italy.

**Astraea Lesbian Foundation For Justice**  
**USD 60,000 (12 months)**

To conduct comprehensive research and report on the state of funding for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) communities worldwide.

**Bird and Carrot Ltd.**  
**USD 100,000 (3 months)**

To support the production of an immersive performance in the Saatchi Gallery by the London-based theatre Les Enfants Terribles about the prison experience of the feminist punk-group activists Pussy Riot.

**European Human Rights Advocacy Centre**  
**USD 107,500 (36 months)**

To administer a merit-based paid internship programme within Oak's International Human Rights programme; to expose recent graduates to the international human rights sector and give them direct experience in grant-making.

**Global Dialogue**  
**USD 250,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to Ariadne, a network for European Funders for Human Rights and Social Justice.

**Global Dialogue**  
**USD 250,000 (24 months)**

To provide support to several UK-based organisations working around human rights and preventing attacks on human rights legislation in the UK.

**International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations**  
**USD 350,000 (36 months)**

To protect fundamental guarantees with respect to social protest, privacy rights, religious freedom and civic activism.

**London School of Economics**  
**USD 100,000 (12 months)**

To research and analyse the operation of social media echo chambers.

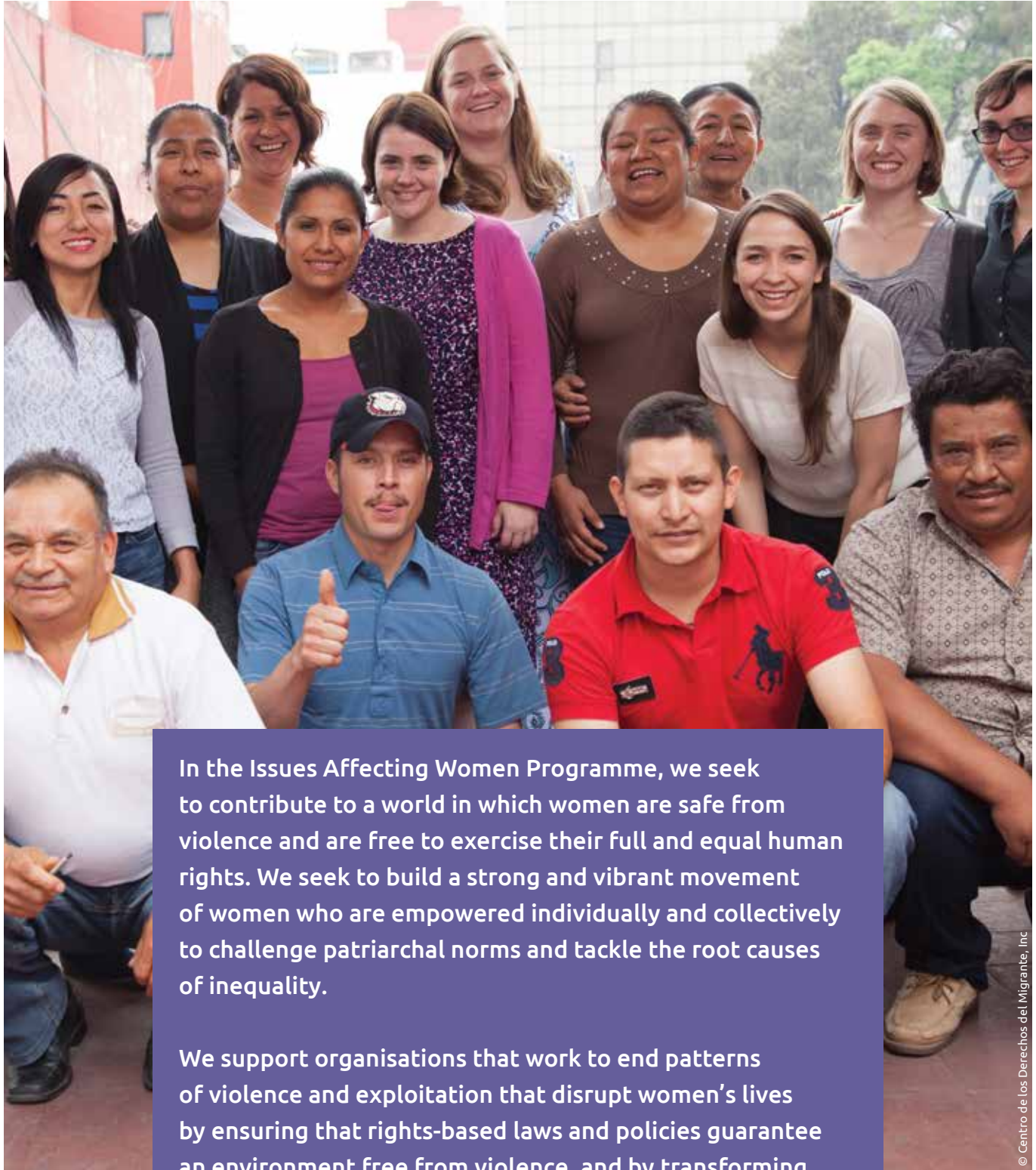
**Movies that Matter Foundation**  
**USD 250,000 (36 months)**

To promote a wider discussion on human rights, including LGBTI rights, by supporting independent human rights film festivals worldwide.

**National Council for Civil Liberties (Liberty)**  
**USD 677,649 (24 months)**

To provide core support to Liberty to promote and build support for human rights among the public and policy makers in the UK and ensure a rights-compliant Brexit.

# Issues Affecting Women



In the Issues Affecting Women Programme, we seek to contribute to a world in which women are safe from violence and are free to exercise their full and equal human rights. We seek to build a strong and vibrant movement of women who are empowered individually and collectively to challenge patriarchal norms and tackle the root causes of inequality.

We support organisations that work to end patterns of violence and exploitation that disrupt women's lives by ensuring that rights-based laws and policies guarantee an environment free from violence, and by transforming harmful social norms. This is complemented by support to services that empower women to recover from the trauma of violence and rebuild their lives. We particularly recognise the importance of giving marginalised groups of women a chance to exercise their influence and have their voices heard.



## Reflections

Over the past year, the Issues Affecting Women Programme (IAWP) has refined its strategy to ensure that we are maximising the impact of our partners' work. We strive to give voice and visibility to their courage and capacities in many countries around the world.

To better understand the impact of our support, we revisited our strategy as a precursor for launching a new learning, monitoring and evaluation system. The strategic planning process included the active participation of many of our partners who helped us review and streamline our expected outcomes. There are no major thematic shifts in our strategy, but the review has helped us recognise movement building as the core of our theory of change.

We believe that supporting and strengthening women's rights movements is the most effective lever for engendering social, cultural and political change. All over the world, women's movements are countering the inequalities and injustice affecting women's lives, including and especially in addressing violence that women experience in the home (domestic violence), at work (trafficking and exploitation), and in situations of crisis.

Our strategy has defined five pathways for strengthening and sustaining women's movements that are present across the IAWP portfolio:

- ensuring groups and movements have adequate leadership, capacities and financial resources;

- creating and maintaining safe spaces for organising;
- generating research and knowledge to strengthen the field and create common agendas;
- enabling connections across the women's rights sector and with other sectors for improved cooperation and collaboration; and
- supporting mobilisation efforts of key constituencies and across sectors.

At least one (and often more) of these elements always accompany our grant-making. We believe that this new strategy is a more accurate reflection of the changes we seek to influence around the world. We are excited to work with our partners to create a safer, more just and equal world.



The photographs throughout the IAWP section of this report illustrate the work of our partners supporting migrants. This includes during migrants' journeys north from South and Central America and our partners' efforts in the United States to organise migrants and help them achieve greater recognition of their human rights. We work with many small not-for-profit organisations through several intermediary organisations. For a comprehensive list, please see page 45.

# 29

grants were made by the Issues Affecting Women Programme in 2017, totalling USD 18.2 million.



Find out more at [www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)



## Fleeing violence and searching for fair work conditions

In January 2016, Vero and her husband Hugo took their motorbike to go to the market in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. They were involved in an accident where they were hit by a car driven by a young man named Juan Alonzo. As a result, Vero suffered two fractures and was forced to stop working for several months, which meant she lost her job as a nurse.\*

Juan was ordered by the court to pay Vero's bills, but he soon stopped paying and Vero's family began to run out of money. Vero tried to contact Juan directly but he did not take the calls and she was told he no longer lived in the city. Then, late one night, Juan turned up at Vero and Hugo's house – with several gang members. They threatened to kill the whole family.

That same night, the whole family packed up their possessions and escaped, heading toward Mexico. It was the beginning of a year-long struggle.

In the months that followed, the family travelled north, going from place to place to find shelter. On many occasions they were assaulted and threatened by other gangs. They ran out of money and were forced to work under exploitative labour conditions. On 15 August, they arrived at **Formacion y Capacitacin** (FOCA), which works to reduce the violence experienced by women on the migratory route. They applied for refugee status and in December 2016 they received permanent residence cards for Mexico. Enormously relieved after their long ordeal, they moved to Mexico City to look for better work and life opportunities.

Vero's family's story is just one of many. Thousands of migrants from Central America and Mexico leave their homes and communities in search of a better life every year – many leave for reasons of poverty or a lack of opportunity. Others, like Vero, notably from the notorious Northern Triangle region of

\* Names have been changed.

Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, are fleeing high levels of violence.

A 2015 report<sup>1</sup> by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) documents how women in particular face a startling degree of violence in the Northern Triangle and Mexico, including rape, assault, extortion, torture, theft and threats by armed criminal groups. As many as 64 per cent of women interviewed for the study cited targeted threats or attacks as a reason for leaving their communities. But sadly they encounter even more violence as they travel north – many are subjugated to gang violence.

**"This is a humanitarian crisis, and women and children are bearing the worst of it. Abuse of all kinds towards women is off the scale."**

- Medina Haeri  
Programme Officer  
Issues Affecting Women Programme

Migrants fleeing under these desperate conditions are vulnerable to further exploitation and violence along the migration route. They are often easy prey for unscrupulous smugglers and traffickers. A recent survey<sup>2</sup> by Médecins Sans Frontières showed that 68.3 per cent of migrants from the Northern Triangle reported experiencing some form of violence while travelling through Central America and Mexico. Among women, 31.4 per cent reported some form of sexual abuse.

Oak Foundation supports organisations and networks working on the issue of migration in Mexico and Guatemala – both countries of origin, transit and destination for Central Americans fleeing violence in their home communities. Our partners are working to improve legal frameworks and ensure that the rights afforded to migrants and asylum seekers in international human rights treaties are recognised and enforced. They raise awareness among the communities of the risks of migration. They also work with states to address the social, political and economic factors that are forcing people

to leave their families and communities. In addition, our partners provide support services and help victims of violence to seek redress and justice whenever possible.

## A place of safety

About 50 km from the Guatemalan border in Chiapas in the city of Comitán, Mexico, the Casita Morada is a small house that serves as an information and help centre for migrant women arriving from the Northern Triangle. The Casita is the only centre of its kind in south-eastern Mexico. It is a result of years of work by a network called the **Red Mesoamericana Mujer, Salud y Migracion** (which translates as **Mesoamerican Women, Health and Migration Network**). This informal group has around 35 member organisations from Southern Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, who collectively work for women's rights and to reduce the violence experienced by women on the migratory route.

Diana Damián Palencia, executive director of FOCA, which coordinates the network, explained how, over the years, it became clear that a physical place to give information specifically for women was needed. "Women are particularly vulnerable on the migratory route, yet less protected," she said. "Often they are afraid to approach the authorities." In both rural and urban areas, women face discrimination.

FOCA also organises workshops which focus on the concepts of solidarity and support and attempt to forge common bonds among the women. "I believe that as long as even one woman benefits, the work is worthwhile," says Diana.

**"I am encouraged by how women in Chiapas are building themselves up from their inner selves. The women I have worked with share a strong capacity to overcome difficulties and not to give up."**

- Diana Damián Palencia  
Executive Director, FOCA

**The Casita Morada offers direct support to women on the migratory route from South and Central America to the United States.**



**Many thousands of workers from Mexico and Central America are recruited each year in the United States for low-wage manual jobs.**

**Our partners advocate for their rights and for improved labour protection.**

Sometimes the women who come to Casita report abduction cases or seek help finding family members. Other times they are fleeing violence or need psychosocial assistance. The Casita has a full-time lawyer that provides legal advice. In addition, it offers a referral service to other civil society organisations which support victims.

## Ensuring migrants have fair working conditions in the United States

In addition, our partners in the US – **Centro de los Derechos Migrantes, CAST, VIDA Legal Assistance, Migrant Justice, Safe Horizon, Justice In Motion, Freedom Network** – work to reform the US immigration and recruitment system, and provide direct services to migrants. This supports in particular those whose rights have been violated, or those who have been trafficked to the US.

Hundreds of thousands of workers, often from Mexico and Central America, are recruited each year in the US for low-wage manual labour, such as picking fruit and vegetables, construction or hospitality work. These areas tend to be excluded from formal labour protection mechanisms, so people working in these sectors are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Our partner organisations – **Urban Justice Center Sex Workers Project, National Domestic Worker Association, Fair Food Standards Council, Worker-led Social Responsibility Network** – advocate at state and federal levels for

improved labour protection for excluded sectors of work. They also raise awareness around workers' rights.

The **Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc. (CDM)** is a transnational migrant rights organisation working to ensure access to justice for these workers. This is done by bringing migrants together and teaching them about their rights, and improving their recruitment and working conditions. "CDM strives to eradicate fraud and abuse in international labour recruitment," says Sienna Baskin, director of **NEO Philanthropy's** Anti-Trafficking Fund, which manages the IAWP US anti-trafficking portfolio of grants. "In both Mexico and the United States, CDM has built coalitions dedicated to disrupting power imbalances in international labour recruitment."

In 2014, CDM launched a website called **Contratados.org**, which provides a set of powerful, interactive tools to migrant workers. It provides space to share and access previously unavailable information about recruitment and working conditions. It empowers them to make informed decisions about US job opportunities. Through this award-winning website, CDM is preventing trafficking and exploitation at every point along the US/Mexico migration corridor.

Migrant Justice led another innovative campaign to improve working conditions by establishing a programme called **Milk with Dignity** in the US state of Vermont. This campaign has helped ensure that workers on dairy farms are fairly paid and have access to decent housing, healthcare and safety standards, as



well as other fundamental rights in the workplace.

This partnership is a result of over two years of intense negotiations. Under the Milk with Dignity Program, employers can no longer discriminate when hiring or hold workers' wages to prevent them from changing jobs. The Milk with Dignity campaign was modelled on the Fair Food Program, which provides protection and support for tomato-pickers in Florida.

"This is a historic moment for dairy workers," says Medina Haeri. "Workers in the food supply chain are notoriously vulnerable to exploitation. The Milk with Dignity Program has the potential to completely transform current exploitative practices and prevent abuse and exploitation of migrant workers in the dairy sector, starting in Vermont and hopefully expanding to other states."

## Moving forward with intermediaries

Oak Foundation is committed to supporting the organisations and networks in the US, Mexico and Guatemala that provide life-saving services to migrants and victims of trafficking and exploitation. Moving forward, we will continue to seek out organisations that: bring innovative approaches to these challenges; fill service or protection gaps; and empower marginalised populations to be full participants in defining the laws and policies that affect their lives.

We support all of our partners across countries and sectors to work together,

propelled by our belief in the power of movements to drive social change and protect human rights.

Often we work with intermediary organisations who in turn re-grant to other, smaller organisations. In 2017 we provided grants to the following organisations on the issues of migration and South and Central America:

**NEO Philanthropy** provides grants to: Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, Fair Food Standards Council, Freedom Network, Human Trafficking Legal Center, Justice in Motion, Migrant Justice, National Domestic Workers Association, National Economic & Social Rights Initiative, Safe Horizon's Anti-trafficking Programme, Urban Justice Center's Sex Workers Project, VIDA Legal Assistance and Worker-driven Social Responsibility Collaborative.

**Hispanics in Philanthropy** provides grants to: Agenda Nacional de Political Trans, Aluna, Brigada Callejera, Centro de Apoyo y Capacitacio para Empleadas del Hogar, INSAD, Las Hormigas, Proyecto de Derechos Economicos, Sociales y Culturales and Red Nacional de Refugios.

**Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres** provides grants to: Actoras de Cambio, Equipo de estudios comunitarios y accion psicosocial, Mesa Nacional para las Migraciones en Guatemala, Mesa Transfronteriza Migraciones y Género, MUJER, Mujeres Transformando el Mundo, Pop Noj, La Red Meso-americana Mujer and Unión Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas.

**References:** Please see page 84 of this report.

**In 2014 Centro de los Derechos del Migrante launched the website [Contratados.org](http://Contratados.org). On this site, migrant workers share and access information about recruitment and working conditions.**

# Grants



© Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc



© Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc

## Artemida, Drochia

**USD 280,000 (24 months)**

To support the work of Artemida in a centre for perpetrators of domestic violence in Drochia, a city in the northern part of Moldova.

## Association Découvrir

**USD 69,656 (12 months)**

To establish a merit-based fellowship programme within Oak's Issues Affecting Women Programme in Geneva, Switzerland, for qualified migrant women with prior working experience relevant to women's rights and gender equality.

## Association ViolenceQueFaire

**USD 222,772 (36 months)**

To provide core support to Association ViolenceQueFaire to build on and expand the reach of its website that provides online French language information on intimate partner violence - especially psychological violence - in Switzerland.

## AVVEC Aide Au Victimes de Violence En Couple

**USD 360,000 (36 months)**

To support AVVEC's "Open the Door" programme in Geneva, Switzerland, to help victims of domestic violence access information, assistance and support.

## Centre Social Protestant (CSP)

**USD 401,679 (36 months)**

To support the CSP's continued operation of its helpline for victims of human trafficking in the canton of Geneva, Switzerland.

## Centro Feminista de Estudos e Assessoria

**USD 30,000 (2 months)**

To support the seventh plenary of the Brazilian Women's Articulation Board (AMB) in Brazilia in October 2017.

## ELAS Social Investment Fund

**USD 453,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to Elas Social Investment Fund, enabling it to make progress towards its key strategic priorities to strengthen Brazilian women's movements.

## Everyman Project

**USD 270,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to Everyman Project in the UK by supporting men who perpetrate intimate partner violence to take responsibility for their actions and change.

## Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres

**USD 2,340,000 (24 months)**

To support the IAWP's Guatemala portfolio of grants working on trafficking and exploitation, with a focus on migration, labour rights and access to justice for victims of sexual violence during Guatemala's 30-year civil war.

## Gender Alternatives Foundation

**USD 150,000 (36 months)**

To affirm and promote women's rights and gender equality in Plovdiv, Bulgaria and more widely in the country, by providing rights-based services to women victims of violence.

## Global Justice Center

**USD 300,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to Global Justice Center to use innovative legal arguments and advocacy strategies, based on international law, to dismantle discriminatory legal and political structures that prevent equality and human rights for all.

## Graduate Institute Geneva

**USD 99,010 (12 months)**

To help the Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative move from being a start-up operation to a high-functioning and established human research and policy centre.

## Hispanics in Philanthropy

**USD 1,685,056 (24 months)**

To administer and expand the Issues Affecting Women Programme's Mexico portfolio of grants working on migration, exploitation, trafficking and violence against women.

## Imkaan

**USD 100,000 (12 months)**

To assess and understand the funding landscape for black, minority and ethnic women affected by domestic violence, as well as for specialised services offered to these women in the United Kingdom.

## Impact Mapper, PBC

**USD 250,000 (12 months)**

To provide support to finalise the Impact Mapper platform, which tracks impact across the women's rights field.

## International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP AP)

**USD 120,000 (12 months)**

To provide IWRAP AP with an exit grant to support its From Global to Local Programme.

## Kalayaan

**USD 187,500 (36 months)**

To provide core support to Kalayaan to work with migrant domestic workers (MDW), especially victims of labour exploitation or trafficking, through direct support services and campaigning aimed at improving the legal and policy framework affecting all MDW.

## Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)

**USD 300,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to LAWRS, so that it can continue to empower Latin American migrant women experiencing violence, exploitation and abuse in the UK.

## NEO Philanthropy (formerly Public Interest Projects)

**USD 5,756,640 (36 months)**

To administer and strategically grow the Issues Affecting Women Programme's US-based trafficking and exploitation portfolio of grants.

## Proteus Fund

**USD 600,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to Philanthropy Advancing Women's Human Rights.





### **SafeLives**

**USD 475,000 (36 months)**

To provide SafeLives with core support to end domestic abuse in the UK.

### **The MATCH International Women's Fund**

**USD 300,000 (36 months)**

To support innovative grassroots women's organisations that lead movements for transformative change to: dismantle barriers, change systems, challenge perceptions and transform society.

### **The Mediterranean Women's Fund**

**USD 390,000 (36 months)**

To provide Mediterranean Women's Fund with core support, enabling it to help build strong national and regional women's movements.

### **TRAG Foundation**

**USD 507,646 (12 months)**

To strengthen women's movements and civil society organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro.

### **WAVE Network**

**USD 450,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to the WAVE Network to provide advice, research, mobilisation and capacity building support to women's organisations in 46 European countries, that provide services to women and children who are experiencing gender-based violence.

### **Women at the Table**

**USD 300,000 (36 months)**

To increase the participation, leadership and influence of frontline/grassroots women leaders on issues that impact women and their communities.

### **Women's Fund in Georgia (WFG)**

**USD 225,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to WFG, enabling it to advance its mission of empowering women and the women's movement in Georgia.

### **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**

**USD 100,000 (10 months)**

To create an event in Geneva that will enable women excluded from participating in the Commission of the Status of Women in New York, due to the visa ban, to participate and have their opinions heard on crucial issues.

### **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)**

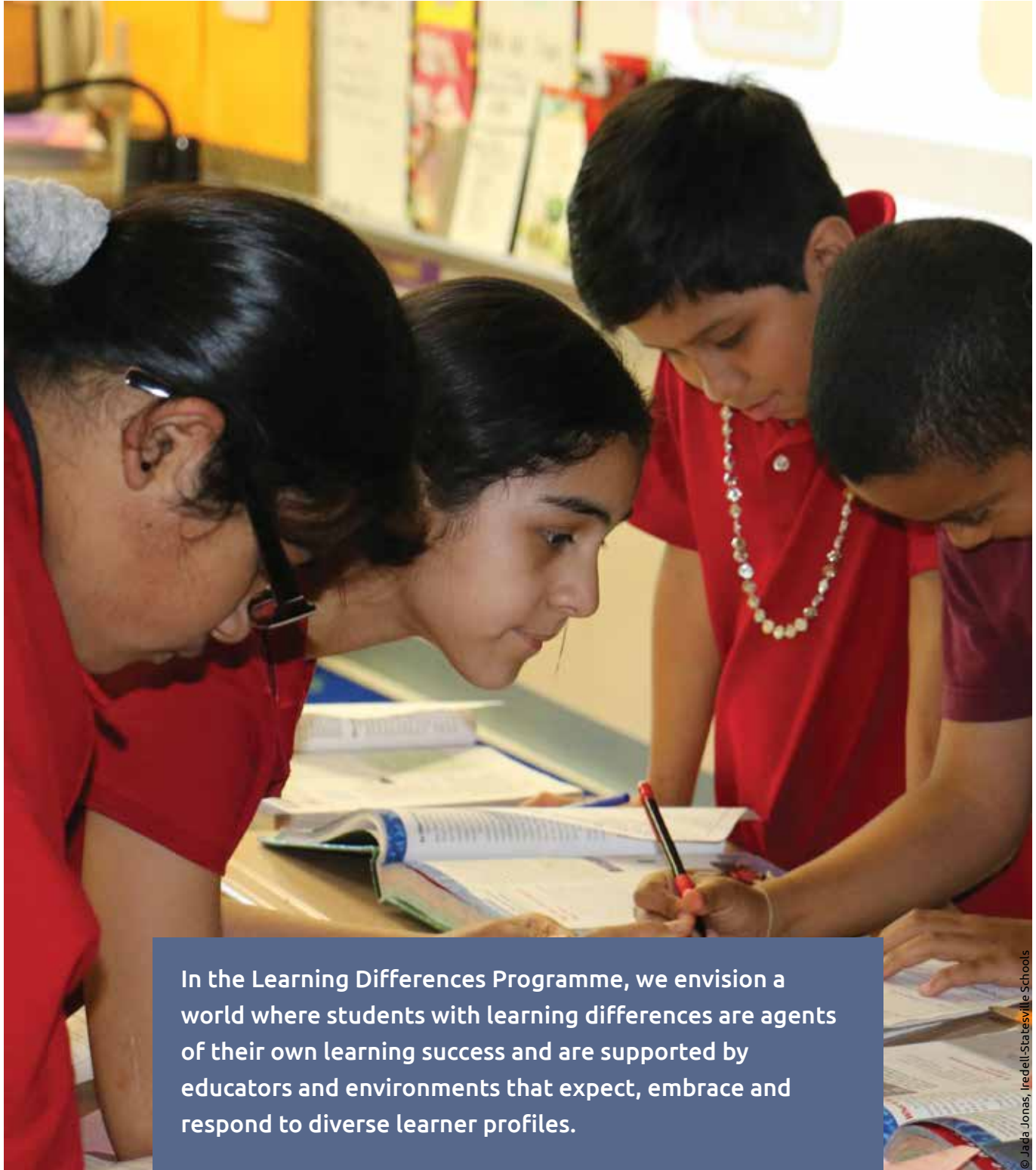
**USD 1,475,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to WILPF to strengthen the capacity of frontline women's organisations to mobilise for peace, equality, justice and human security.



This is a list of grants approved in 2017. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our website at [www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)

# Learning Differences



In the Learning Differences Programme, we envision a world where students with learning differences are agents of their own learning success and are supported by educators and environments that expect, embrace and respond to diverse learner profiles.

We support teacher development, student engagement and parental understanding to enable students to follow their own individual paths to lifelong learning success. We seek partners who design and create learning environments that are informed by student voices, neuroscience, personalised learning best practices and universal design concepts.

© Jada Jonas, Iredell-Statesville Schools



## Reflections

In 2017, the Learning Differences Programme (LDP) continued to pursue its longterm goal to serve students with a wide range of learning profiles to achieve success in public schools and during the transition to and through college and other post-secondary opportunities.

This year, the LDP welcomed a new director, Heather Graham, and a new programme officer, Bethiel Girma Holton. We said goodbye to Stacy Parker-Fisher, who had been with LDP since 2009 and Kelli Joyce who had served since 2011. The team also began three learning processes: an evaluation of its grant-making to increase the capacity of teachers to understand and support students with learning differences; the development of an Impact Measurement Working Group for LDP partners; and a racial equity assessment and recommendations.

The LDP strategy is based on a set of core beliefs:

1. **Each learner** possesses a diverse set of cognitive, social and emotional assets, knowledge, skills, interests and preferences. These characteristics interact to form unique learner profiles that may evolve over time.
2. **Students**, particularly those with learning differences, can achieve greater academic success when they understand how they learn and use that knowledge to plan for, and adapt to, learning environments.

3. **Educators** should be prepared for, and have the tools to respond to diverse learner profiles in order to better serve students with learning differences in general education environments.
4. **Parents** should have the knowledge to understand their child's unique learner profile and the tools to advocate for him/her.
5. **Education systems** should define student success, using accountability frameworks with multiple indicators of academic performance as well as measures of social and emotional wellbeing, persistence and engagement.

We envision a world where students with learning differences are agents of their own learning success and are supported by educators and environments that expect, embrace and respond to diverse learner profiles. We support partners who:

1. **strengthen** teacher capacity;
2. **engage** students;
3. **enhance** parents' knowledge and support;
4. **personalise** learning environment
5. **build** demand for responsive learning environments; and
6. **explore** learner profiles.

Through these strategies, we will continue our efforts to improve the lives of those with learning differences globally.

# 12

grants were made by the Learning Differences Programme in 2017, totalling USD 10.93 million.





## Personalising learning for every student

Marta\* is seven and starting second grade. Her parents moved to mainland US from Puerto Rico eight years ago just before she was born. She is of average age for her class. Marta has strong auditory processing, which means she can quickly and efficiently understand what she hears. She enjoys hands-on math activities. But she struggles to learn to read. She is discouraged as classmates move ahead and she feels less intelligent than her friends.

Marta's well-meaning teacher provides her books with simpler vocabulary and syntax, hoping to help Marta. With Marta reading different books to her classmates, her teacher works with her one-on-one when he can. When he cannot, Marta works alone or a classmate reads to her.

While these well-meaning interventions can be effective for other learners, they only continue to frustrate Marta because they do not align with the cognitive factors affecting her own learning. She retreats further into herself, as she feels she is reading "baby books" and the other kids know it.

Then, in a poetry study, Marta's teacher notices her struggling to identify rhyming words. Through **Digital Promise Global's** (DPG) Learner Positioning Systems (LPS), which tries to uncover strategies to meet learners where they are across varied contexts and needs, Marta's teacher searches "rhyming" to try to understand more. He is directed towards the phonological awareness summary on which rhyming appears. He performs a simple assessment suggested by the LPS framework: the Rhyming Individual Growth and Development Indicator. This reveals Marta is struggling with phonological awareness skills.

"These are broad skills that include identifying and manipulating parts of oral language – such as words, syllables and rhymes," says Dana Brinson, programme officer for the

Learning Difference Programme (LDP). “Students like Marta, who cannot identify or make out oral rhymes, are not able to relate the sounds to the words they see on a page.”

We believe in the importance of understanding learners as individuals when personalising learning, in particular for students who learn differently. “If you only know a student’s score on a math test, but you don’t know what factors shaped their pathway to that score, you don’t have enough information to plan the next steps on their learning journey,” says Stacy Parker-Fisher, former director of Oak’s LDP.

Nonetheless, we realise the term “personalised learning” has become an overused term in American education systems and beyond in recent years, with thousands of schools, education technology tools and programmes claiming to personalise learning. Some programmes “personalise” by letting each learner start at a different place based on what a test says they already know; others provide different pathways and timelines to achieving the same content standards. Some even confuse computer-based learning as personalised, irrespective of whether the technology tailors the experience for an individual student.

Unfortunately, not many agree on what personalised learning is, and there are no clear standards about what constitutes personalised learning. In few environments is the full variability of students across all dimensions considered. These include: cognition; social-emotional learning; content knowledge; and personal factors such as stress, trauma, hunger, or poor physical health. All of these factors interact to impact readiness and motivation to learn.

To help identify the factors critical to learning at different stages of the primary school spectrum, Oak partnered with Digital Promise Global to continue developing its LPS project. The goal of this project is to translate learning science research in actionable ways that help educators, technology and product developers, parents and learners understand how learners vary. LPS provides instructional and product

design strategies to support all learners, including those who have learning differences such as dyslexia.


Technology provides tremendous potential to support teachers and learners in personalising educational experiences for all, but appropriate personalisation can only happen based on what is understood about learners.

 **“If we don’t design and build programmes, products and practices based on what learning science tells us about how learners vary, we risk simply re-marginalising those learners for whom school already doesn’t work.”**  
- Vic Vuchic, Chief Innovation Officer, Digital Promise Global

For students with learning differences like dyslexia or attention deficits, the typical classroom designed for the mythical “average” learner has never been a good fit.<sup>1</sup> As learner diversity has grown tremendously in classrooms over the past several decades, many Western education systems have struggled to support millions of students who are bright, capable and eager to learn, but held back from achieving their full potential by traditional educational pathways.

At the core of the LPS work is the concept of learner models. These include social-emotional development, cognitive skills and content knowledge. Learner models are developed according to individual age ranges and contexts. Each model is designed to answer the question: ‘what are the major factors that we should understand to support the full diversity of learners?’

#### **Learner models support:**

1. learner self knowledge and metacognition;
2. teacher knowledge of learner variability and supportive instructional strategies;
3. technological developer insight about key product design features for personalisation; and
4. school and district programmatic decision making. 

**We believe in the importance of understanding learners as individuals. This includes students who learn differently.**

**\* Marta is one of several fictional personas that Digital Promise Global used to inform the design of the Learner Positioning Systems (LPS).**



**The Learner Positioning Systems team will partner with education technology platforms to improve existing programmes' capacity to personalise learning.**

Initially the LPS team will partner with education technology platforms to make existing programmes and resources more effective at personalising learning.

For example, the LPS team has worked with a nationally implemented literacy platform, Readworks, in this way. LPS provides access to the learning science and guidance on translating this information into product development to impact the learning of thousands of students immediately. "The LPS brings learning science information all in one place. I can't think of anything else that does this," said Katy Laird, associate director of Teacher and School Engagement at ReadWorks.

"When we began collaborating with the LPS team, we were able to apply what we were learning immediately, and it's already impacted products that we were in the middle of building," said David Ciulla, executive director of ReadWorks.

DPG's support in applying the science closes a longstanding gap between scientific research and technology development. "We've never really had the bandwidth to address some of the other learner factors, like cognition and social emotional learning in ReadWorks," said Manjula Raman, director of Content and Curriculum at ReadWorks. "LPS has really helped us find a way to integrate these factors into our technological features, tools and content to make a bigger impact on diverse learners than we had been able to before."

Over the next five years, the LPS will continue to expand learner models and partner with product developers. The aim is to drive more research-based design for learner diversity. LPS will also: expand to partner organisations

to develop tools for teachers, districts, parents and learners; and evaluate the impact of these models on learning.

DPG and LPS teams are leading the way in building a broader understanding of learner variability. They are also helping science inform practice, so that every student achieves their potential as a learner and is better prepared for life.

In 2017, the LDP made a special initiative grant to Digital Promise Global for USD 10 million over five years. It will support the Learner Positioning Systems initiative. Please see page 61 of this report for the grant description.

## Iredell-Statesville Schools

In 2010 Oak gave a grant to Iredell-Statesville Schools in North Carolina for USD 270,000 as a partner in a USD 6 million federal "Investing in Innovation" grant. It implemented multi-tiered systems of support that aim to understand each student as a learner.

This has made a remarkable impact – dropout rates decreased, graduation rates increased and the number of students with learning differences who were well-served increased. Sophisticated data tracking systems and internal processes insured that every student was monitored on a frequent basis.

Oak has now provided a follow-up grant of USD 350,000 over two years. Iredell-Statesville Schools is collaborating with Digital Promise Global's LPS to support personalisation between student learning needs and academic interventions.

# Grants



## Branching Minds

**USD 500,000 (24 months)**

To bring personalised learning support to millions of students in the United States struggling to succeed in classrooms.

## Center for Curriculum Redesign

**USD 250,000 (24 months)**

To provide a platform for leaders in the field of learning differences to redesign global systems of measuring student learning that are aligned with goals and educational outcomes relevant to the 21st century.

## Center for Individual Opportunity

**USD 2,000,000 (24 months)**

To support a two-year campaign to test the viability of the social movement "Beyond Average", which focuses on an expanded view of human potential.

## Convergence

**USD 1,000,000 (36 months)**

To support Education Reimagined in accelerating the growth and impact of a learner-centred education movement.

## Council of Chief State School Officers

**USD 130,000 (12 months)**

To support the Council of Chief State School Officers in convening the National Collaborative on Inclusive Principal Leadership, a coalition of diverse organisations committed to advancing policy and practices that support inclusive learning environments for all learners in the United States.

## East Carolina University

**USD 1,498,737 (24 months)**

To support the continued expansion of the College STAR network in the United States in order to strengthen a nationwide network of educational professionals and services, both in K-12 and postsecondary environments, committed to increasing postsecondary opportunities for students with learning differences.

## Green River Research, LLC

**USD 100,000 (12 months)**

To support Green River Research to evaluate the impact of the Oak Learning Differences Programme's efforts to build teacher capacity to understand, support and educate children with learning differences such as dyslexia.

## National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD)

**USD 3,000,000 (36 months)**

To support NCLD to continue managing Understood.org, an online platform for parents of children who have learning and attention issues.

## Public Impact, LLC

**USD 200,000 (36 months)**

To build the capacity of the Learning Differences Programme and its partners in measuring the impact of Oak-funded work on students who learn differently.

## Relay Graduate School of Education

**USD 250,000 (24 months)**

To support Relay Graduate School of Education to develop and pilot the Special Education Leadership Academy fellowship, which will prepare special educators to lead schools in supporting the academic and social-emotional success of students with learning differences.

## Teach for America

**USD 1,500,000 (36 months)**

To support Teach For America to incorporate an orientation around learner variability and disability justice into its programme continuum to reach 3,500 new teachers each year.

## The Hill Center Inc

**USD 500,000 (29 months)**

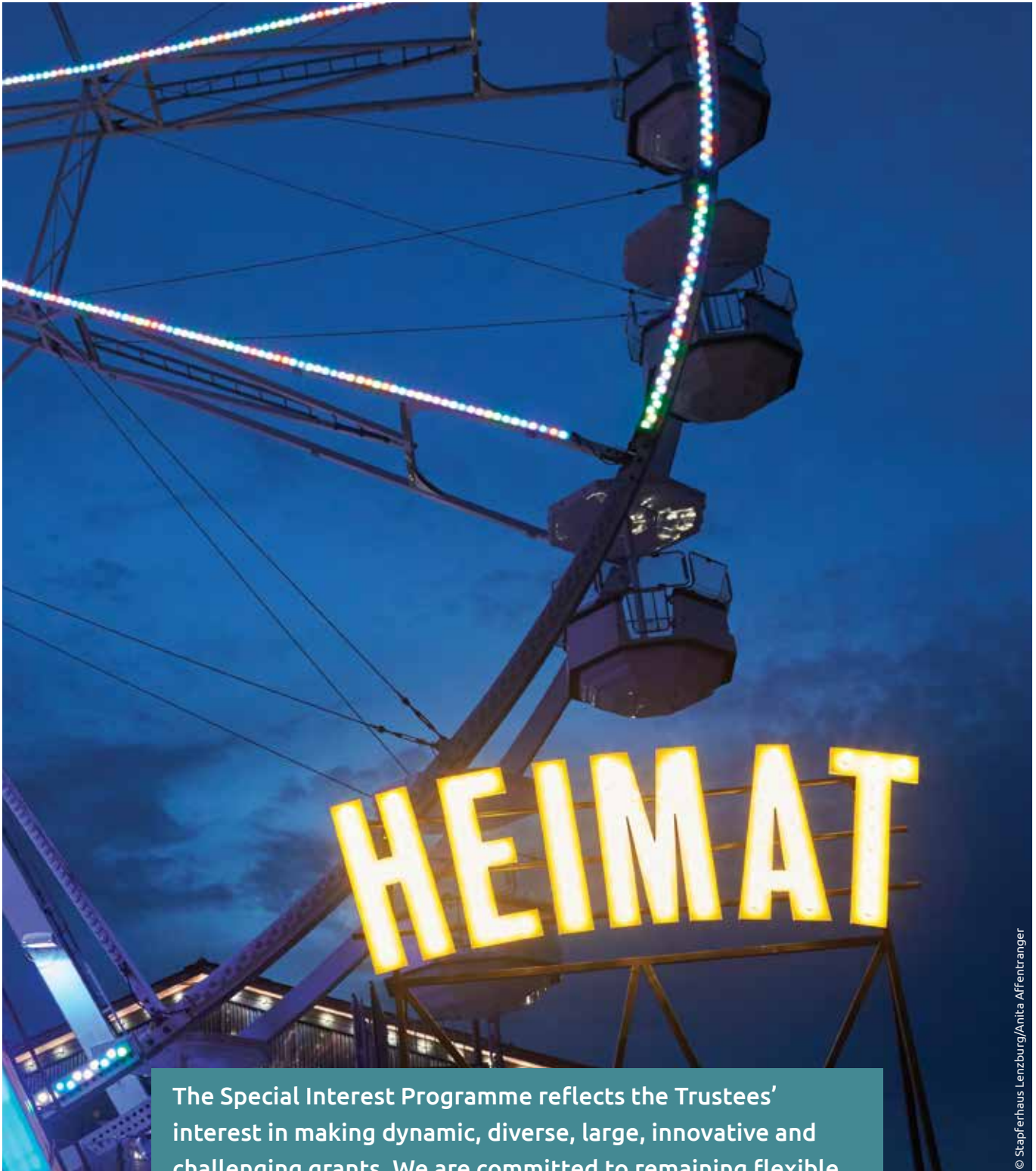
To provide core support to the US-based Hill Center, which provides personalised, research-based reading, writing and math instruction for students with learning differences.



The photographs throughout the LDP section of this report have mostly been provided by LDP partners and illustrate various teaching practices and learning environments.



# Special Interest



© Stappferhaus Lenzburg/Anita Affentranger

The Special Interest Programme reflects the Trustees' interest in making dynamic, diverse, large, innovative and challenging grants. We are committed to remaining flexible and to seizing opportunities as they arise.

Special Interest grants cover a wide range of fields, including health, humanitarian relief, education and the arts. They are made to organisations whose activities the Trustees wish to support, irrespective of country or region.





## Stories

The stories within this section represent the diverse range of grants within the Special Interest Programme.

### Where is home for you?

In these days of mass migration, with many people having lost their homes and trying to find new ones, home will perhaps never be as it once was. But what is home? Is it a place or an emotion? A nation or a childhood memory? Is it the people we love? And what is the home we would like to have?

The German word 'Heimat' does not translate simply into other languages and has a much broader meaning than the English word 'home'. The powerful emotional ties it evokes are probably best described as a 'sense of belonging'. While ideas of 'Heimat' are enormously diverse, everyone has a sense of what home is for them. Could it be the smell of cut grass that brings back a childhood memory of a summer's day? Is it the sound of the ocean? Is it a person or a place? Is it the smell of fresh bread straight from the oven or the scent of jasmine blowing on the breeze?

Stapferhaus in Lenzburg, Switzerland, invites people to reflect on this question. The 'Heimat' exhibition takes us on a journey: from our first home (our mother's womb) to the far reaches of space, via virtual reality technology, where we are encouraged to think about humanity on a much broader level. On a Ferris wheel ride, card games are played, bringing prejudices to light. In a mirror garden, people see different sides to who they are.

By the end of December 2017 the exhibition had attracted more than 62,000 visitors since its opening date in March of the same year, or more than 240 visitors a day. The majority found that the exhibition provoked personal debate and taught them something new.



**"Migration is a hot topic all around the world.**

**We decided to try to build a discussion around the concept of 'Heimat' - the German word for 'a sense of belonging' or 'a feeling of home', because everyone can relate to that."**

**- Alain Gloor  
Stapferhaus Lenzburg**

"We received a call from a prison in Switzerland who asked us to send us the video we had made interviewing people about their ideas of 'Heimat', says Rebecca Widmer Kerkhoff, project manager at Stapferhaus. "I was so touched by the call – we hadn't at all expected this. Of course, a feeling of home is a hot topic within the prisons as well – our identity is very much linked to a feeling of belonging, and perhaps there is nowhere more difficult to make a home than in a prison."

Watch this video to find out more.

<https://vimeo.com/225111733>



The 'Heimat' exhibition invites us to contemplate the idea of 'home' and what it means to different people.

# 51

**grants were made by the Special Interest Programme in 2017, totalling USD 46.49 million.**



Find out more at  
[www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)

## Providing legal support to immigrants

Some 65.3 million people were displaced globally in 2015, a number surpassing the post-World War II record.<sup>1</sup> In 2017, this trend continued, with conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen driving hundreds of thousands from their homes. On the other side of the Atlantic, the number of unaccompanied children and families heading to the United States from Central America continues to increase, despite US insistence that their home countries address the violence driving the exodus.<sup>2</sup>

“These are uncertain times for immigrants in America. The urgent need for free and affordable legal counsel in deportation proceedings has never been more critical .”

- Jojo Annobil  
Executive Director  
Immigrant Justice Corps

**Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC)** provides high-quality legal assistance to immigrants seeking citizenship and fighting deportation in the US. When immigrant families gain legal status, their economic prospects, quality of life and overall wellbeing improves rapidly and significantly. In the US, there are significant obstacles to accessing quality immigration services, both in New York City and around the country.

“The logistical challenges of genuinely supporting immigrants are huge,” says Millie Brobston, programme officer for Oak's Special Interests Programme. “Immigrants suffer terrible hardships and often live in dire poverty as they await consideration of their request for legal status.” For example, of the 29.4 million children living in poor families in the US in 2015, a staggering 9.4 million (or 32 per cent) were children of immigrants.<sup>3</sup>

**References:** Please see page 84 of this report.

Language can also present a barrier, and according to the Migration Policy Institute, nearly 25.1 million people in the US in 2013 did not speak English proficiently.<sup>4</sup> This puts them at a disadvantage straightaway in terms of knowing and claiming their rights, making it easy to fall through the cracks in the system. There is also a lack of access to good lawyers. There are approximately 85,000 cases pending at the New York Immigration Court, but very few lawyers practice immigration law for low-income clients.<sup>5</sup> In addition, obligatory federal government fees when applying for a change in immigration status are impossible for families living below the poverty line, even before the expense of hiring a lawyer.

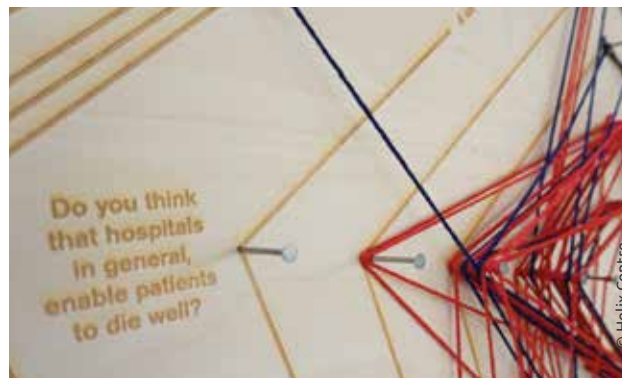
The Oak grant enables IJC to reach thousands of immigrants with affordable, high-quality legal assistance and to support people, often living in poverty and fear, as they await the verdict on their applications for legal residency. In addition, IJC has had a high rate of success – of the 293 cases that have been closed, some 92 per cent of them have been granted.

“Immigration is America’s past, present and future,” says Jojo. “We should uphold the core principles of liberty and justice for all.”



**P 57: The Helix Centre Project**, based in St Mary's Hospital, London, aims to address end-of-life care by balancing people's final wishes with standard medical care practices. This is done by combining clinical research, design and technology. Matthew Harrison, senior design associate of this project, features with his father in the left image in central London.

**Immigrant Justice Corps works to reach thousands of immigrants with affordable, high-quality legal assistance as they await the verdict of their application process for legal residency.**



## Transforming end-of-life care

Death is a taboo subject and, while it comes to us all, it rarely receives the attention a topic of such importance requires.

Seen as a tragedy, death often brings stress to families and loved ones. Since those stressful situations are hard for everyone involved, the needs of those reaching the end of their lives can be overlooked. For example, the wishes of someone to die at home can be forgotten if they take a bad turn and the family panics and calls an ambulance to rush a relative to hospital.

Nowadays, thanks to advances in medical technology, many people live longer and end-of-life care is arguably even more important than before. "There is a desperate need to change attitudes towards death and dying in society," says Diane Buczynski, programme officer for the Special Interest Programme. "End-of-life services need to be improved to allow people to live well and die well in their communities, with access to pain and symptom management."

The Helix Centre Project, strategically located in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, is a design centre that aims to do just that. "We are looking at how a design-led approach can improve end-of-life care in both a clinical setting in hospitals and in the community," says Matthew Harrison, senior design associate at the Helix Centre Project. This includes services that help carers to manage a home death with remote support from

end-of-life specialists, so that more people can pass away in a safe and peaceful environment.

A relatively new clinical discipline, end-of-life care helps those with advanced, progressive, incurable illnesses to live as well as possible until they pass away, supporting patients and their families throughout the last phase of life and into bereavement. "The healthcare sector's mission is to fix people and make them better," says Matthew. "It's not to help them die well. As a society we don't really like planning ahead, or thinking about death. Then, when it comes to us or a family member, we are unprepared, uninformed, don't have a plan and don't know how to balance aggressive medical interventions that are possible but not necessarily desirable."

Design and technology are key aspects of the Helix Centre Project. It provides a unique approach towards end-of-life care. "When people reach the end of their lives, their priorities change," says Matthew. "They might prioritise an event, such as the birth of a grandchild, or spiritual beliefs may also take on a greater significance. End-of-life care is about balancing these desires with standard medical care practices."

"I believe the work of the Helix Centre Project will contribute to the field of end-of-life care and help people die in dignity," says Diane. "This is a really difficult yet important subject. Our generation is going to have to change the way we approach death."

**The Helix Centre is an innovation lab combining clinical research, design and technology to address a variety of healthcare priorities, including end-of-life care.**



**Moorfields Eye Hospital and the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology are pioneering groundbreaking work in stem cell research to find a new treatment for age-related macular degeneration.**

## Stem cell research to reverse macular degeneration

“The fact is, once the nerves in the retina start to be damaged through disease, they don’t regrow,” says Professor Lyndon da Cruz. “So, people lose their central and high-quality vision. It would be powerful if we could put back what’s missing.”

That is exactly what they are trying to do at **Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust** and the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology in London, the United Kingdom. Professor da Cruz and his colleague Professor Pete Coffey (featured above right) are conducting groundbreaking work in stem cell research to find a new treatment for age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

“AMD mostly affects the elderly population, taking away the enjoyment of their retirement,” says Professor da Cruz. “They can’t read; they can’t see faces; they can’t drive. In the past there was no real solution for this. We would just tell people that they have an illness which affects the nerves in their eyes and that their vision would eventually be lost permanently.”

More than 600,000 people in the UK are affected by late stage AMD and 25 per cent of the population over 60 are impacted by AMD in some way. As the population ages, this figure is expected to increase significantly. Indeed, AMD is the most common cause of sight loss in the developed world. By 2020, it’s predicted almost 700,000 people will have late-stage AMD in the UK.<sup>6</sup>

Currently, standard practice taken by doctors is either to try to slow down AMD or prevent it.

Now, however, by building on the expertise of the London Project to Cure Blindness through stem cell therapies, Professors da Cruz and Coffey want to use stem cells to replace the neural tissues in the retina. If they are successful, this will have a significant impact on blindness worldwide.

This procedure will be streamlined to involve a simple operation taking less than one hour under local anaesthetic, during which a small “transplant patch” populated with stem cells is injected into the back of the eye. Ultimately, many thousands of these patches will be made up in a lab, ready and waiting for use by doctors. This will systematise a solution to an illness which, up till now, did not have a cure.

Moorfields Eye Hospital is the leading provider for eye health services in the UK and a world-class centre of excellence for ophthalmic research. The research partnership of Professors da Cruz and Coffey and their team provides an unrivalled opportunity to transform how people think about and treat eye diseases.

“What it’s done now is opened up a huge treatment opportunity for a large number of people that could never have been helped in the past,” says da Cruz. “That’s why we’re excited about looking at all the possibilities stem cells hold in replacing different types of nerves, hitherto irreparable.”

**References: Please see page 84 of this report.**

# Grants



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© Immigrant Justice Corps

## Africa Foundation

**USD 813,412 (17 months)**

To safely relocate about 30 rhinos from areas in South Africa, where they are being targeted by poachers, to areas in Botswana.

## Association Savor Patient

**USD 197,993 (12 months)**

To support the Savor Patient Association in Switzerland to collect data on the 360° impact of breast cancer and to develop an electronic database to inform research and better address patients' needs.

## Bristol Zoological Society

**USD 959,354 (24 months)**

To support the Bristol Zoological Society's 'British Ancient Woodland' project, which will restore an 8.5 hectare piece of ancient woodland.

## Build It International

**USD 750,000 (36 months)**

To support Build It International's construction training programme in Zambia.

## CANSEARCH Foundation

**USD 500,000 (60 months)**

To support the research team of CANSEARCH Foundation in Switzerland to improve treatment for children with cancer and blood diseases.

## Church World Service, Inc.

**USD 100,000 (12 months)**

To welcome refugees and immigrants from around the world into lives of freedom, hope and opportunity in the Triangle area of North Carolina in the United States.

## Combat Stress

**USD 1,250,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to Combat Stress to give timely and effective clinical treatment to UK military veterans who suffer from psychological wounds.

## Coram's Field

**USD 352,563 (36 months)**

To improve the physical and mental wellbeing of children and young people with an emphasis on those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, through the delivery of a free, comprehensive sports programme.

## Creative Foundation

**USD 187,500 (8 months)**

To support the 2017 Folkestone Triennial, a unique international art event that treats the town of Folkestone, the United Kingdom, as a gallery.

## dZi Foundation

**USD 400,000 (48 months)**

To provide core support to dZi Foundation for its work in Nepal.

## Elephants Alive

**USD 300,000 (36 months)**

To ensure the survival of elephants and their habitats and to promote harmonious co-existence between humans and elephants.

## Entraide Protestante Suisse (EPER)

**USD 396,040 (41 months)**

To contribute to improving the quality of life of migrants in Geneva by providing information about the health and social services that they are entitled to access.

## Exchange Clubs Child Abuse Prevention Center in Durham, Inc, DBA Exchange Family Center

**USD 200,000 (34 months)**

To strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect through family support, counseling and education.

## Fondation Partage

**USD 297,030 (36 months)**

To support Fondation Partage's core mission to collect and sort unsold stock from Geneva's food stores and to distribute it free of charge to associations and social services which assist and provide for those in need.

## Førælder Fonden

**USD 4,634,605 (25 months)**

To establish a new student hall of residence for single parents, thus creating a safe, stable and stimulating everyday life for the single parent and their children while they pursue an education.

## Foundation for Change

**USD 200,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support to the London-based organisation Foundation for Change, which helps people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

## Foundation for Scientific and Technological Development in Health (FIOTEC)

**USD 602,847 (12 months)**

To improve and scale up the diagnosis of Zika virus infections in Brazil.

## Friends of the Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department

**USD 250,000 (9 months)**

To enhance parks, greenways and recreational facilities in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

## GiGi's Playhouse Raleigh

**USD 250,000 (60 months)**

To offer foundational learning opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community, by supporting speech-language, social and motor skills through therapy and education.

## Good Shepherd International Foundation ONLUS

**USD 2,659,574 (51 months)**

To provide support to Good Shepherd International Foundation and its partners in more than 30 countries to improve the lives of vulnerable children, girls and women in particular.

## Housing for New Hope Inc.

**USD 300,000 (36 months)**

To prevent and end homelessness for families in Durham County, North Carolina and mitigate the physical, social-emotional and intellectual trauma that homeless children commonly experience.



### Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC)

**USD 400,000 (24 months)**

To provide core support to IJC so that it can lift immigrants out of poverty by providing pro bono legal services.

### International Rhino Foundation

**USD 600,000 (36 months)**

To support International Rhino Foundation to reduce rhino poaching and protect black and white rhinos in the Lowveld conservancies of Zimbabwe and one-horned rhinos in Assam, India.

### Jenifer Altman Foundation

**USD 3,000,000 (36 months)**

To support the European Environment and Health Initiative to strengthen civil society engagement to improve EU policies on endocrine disrupting chemicals.

### Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

**USD 1,500,000 (36 months)**

To continue to support KIND's project, 'Protecting Central American children – on the move and at home', which aims to protect, empower and advance the rights of unaccompanied Central American migrant and refugee children.

### Laurel House, Inc.

**USD 250,000 (24 months)**

To further develop the website Resources to Recover ([www.rtor.org](http://www.rtor.org)) that guides, supports and provides best practice resources for mental healthcare.

### Learning Outside, Inc.

**USD 650,000 (60 months)**

To continue support for the organisation's outdoor learning programmes in North Carolina, the US, and to help ensure its financial sustainability.

### Made in Durham

**USD 750,000 (36 months)**

To implement a coordinated strategy to serve youth who have dropped out of school and who are not employed.

### Maitri

**USD 246,852 (36 months)**

To continue Maitri's work with abandoned widows in Vrindavan, India.

### Médecins Sans Frontières Suisse (MSF Switzerland)

**USD 495,050 (12 months)**

To provide core support for MSF Switzerland in support of its emergency response operations in under-reported crises.

### MiracleFeet

**USD 5,000,000 (60 months)**

To provide core support to MiracleFeet to enable it to continue its work in existing partner countries and to expand into new countries to reach and treat more children born with clubfoot.

### Missing Children Switzerland (MCS)

**USD 623,762 (36 months)**

To give core support to MCS to provide round-the-clock support and advice to anyone confronted with, or fearing, a child's disappearance in Switzerland.

### Munyawana Conservancy

**USD 400,000 (48 months)**

To expand and conserve wilderness areas and to protect the flora, fauna and endemic species residing within the Munyawana Conservancy.

### New Economics Foundation (NEF)

**USD 500,000 (24 months)**

To provide core support to NEF and, through them, to the New Economy Organisers Network.

### Providence House

**USD 1,000,000 (60 months)**

To provide diverse programmes and services while cultivating a nurturing community and caring homes in New York City.

### Queensland Ballet Company

**USD 2,000,000 (48 months)**

To support the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme (at Queensland Ballet Company), a year-long apprenticeship programme offering young talented dancers a career pathway and building the next generation of internationally sought-after dancers.

### Robin Hood Foundation

**USD 3,000,000 (36 months)**

To improve the lives of New Yorkers in poverty and bring down barriers to opportunities that block them.

### Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry

**USD 625,000 (36 months)**

To increase rhinoceros populations in priority sites in Southern Africa, and to support the effective disruption of trafficking of wildlife products through engagement with the transport sector.

### Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign

**USD 3,005,120 (60 months)**

To support the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, the United Kingdom, to develop new treatments for children and teenagers with cancer to improve the survival and reduce the long-term health effects of cancer treatments.

### Self-Help (Center for Community Self-Help)

**USD 500,000 (13 months)**

To help the Center for Community Self-Help transform a building located in the Angier/Driver business district in Durham, North Carolina, into a modern facility occupied by organisations which serve the community.

### Shobana Jeyasingh Dance

**USD 281,250 (36 months)**

To provide core support for Shobana Jeyasingh Dance to continue producing and touring dance works across the United Kingdom and internationally.



© Immigrant Justice Corps



© Immigrant Justice Corps

### **The Conservation Fund** **USD 500,000 (24 months)**

To continue to build the capacity of grassroots organisations to plan, manage and implement programmes that increase access to healthy foods and connect limited-resource farmers with community markets to strengthen and build more inclusive local food systems.

### **The Queen's Commonwealth Trust** **USD 375,000 (36 months)**

To support the Queen's Commonwealth Trust in its work to provide small grants to young people throughout the Commonwealth, to help them get good ideas off the ground.

### **The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights** **USD 400,000 (24 months)**

To enable The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights to inform US decision-makers on the reality of life in the home countries of unaccompanied child migrants who face the risk of being repatriated to dangerous situations.

### **Thorn** **USD 500,000 (24 months)**

To support Thorn in its continued development, roll-out and maintenance of a technological tool called 'Solis', which fights child sexual exploitation on the dark web.

### **Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers, Inc. (TROSA)** **USD 200,000 (12 months)**

To help construct a Comprehensive Care Centre to provide health services for those in recovery from substance abuse.

### **US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants** **USD 1,000,000 (48 months)**

To ensure the long-term safety and stability of unaccompanied children in North Carolina by offering legal assistance and mental health services.

### **Voluntary Arts** **USD 312,500 (24 months)**

To extend and deepen grassroots arts engagement across the UK and the Republic of Ireland so that participation in creative cultural activity for at least two hours per week becomes recognised as the norm.

### **Wildlife SOS** **USD 381,870 (24 months)**

To provide core support to Wildlife SOS, an organisation founded in 1995 to protect and conserve India's natural heritage, forest and wildlife.

### **WWF International** **USD 396,040 (36 months)**

To provide young people with an opportunity to engage in the conservation of the environment through internship programmes in WWF's offices around the world and to develop the world's future leaders in sustainable development.

## **Special Initiative**

### **Digital Promise Global (DPG)**

#### **USD 10,000,000 (60 months)**

To support DPG to accelerate the Learner Positioning System initiative with the goal of improving student agency and teacher instruction.

### **The Voices Project** **USD 2,000,000 (48 months)**

To support the UK-based 'The Syria Campaign' in its work to elevate Syria's heroes and build global support behind them.

# Joint Brazil



The Joint Brazil Programme (JBP) was launched in 2016. Five Oak Programmes work together to address issues that affect people with limited resources in the Recife Metropolitan area in Brazil. The programme focuses on promoting citizen security and participation, protecting urban spaces and improving mobility among disadvantaged communities.

We aim to improve the lives of the most marginalised communities by promoting inclusive, efficient, democratic processes that operate in the best interests of all citizens of the Recife Metropolitan area, irrespective of gender, age or socio-economic position.





2

© Movimento dos Pimpadores



3

© Virginia Ruan/Oak Foundation

## City life: from the bottom up

For 22 years, Sebastião Duque has cleared recyclable materials like bottles from streets and mangroves in Recife, Brazil, and sold them to make a living.

“Since the mangrove never gets cleaned, I try to do that cleansing by collecting. An area like this – flooded in mud – is a cold, forgotten area with no local support or anything.”

- Sebastião Duque  
Ecological recycler of waste and member of **Movimentos dos Pimpadores**

Not only has Sebastião devoted his life to recycling waste ecologically, he has also invested the proceeds back into the community. His hard-earned money was behind the construction of New Hope School, attended by around 100 local children, as well as more than a dozen houses for families previously living in cardboard huts, and the organisation of many social events. Sebastião’s tireless service has not gone unnoticed by his community and he is now a member of **Movimento dos Pimpadores**, a global movement that strives to promote, through art, the invaluable work of waste collectors like himself.

The founder of Movimento dos Pimpadores, Thiago Mundano, calls people like Sebastião “true environmentalists – invisible superheros”. Throughout Recife, there are many organisations and individuals quietly working behind the scenes to combat often invisible, yet vital, issues affecting Recife’s citizens. For example, Guilherme Melles created **Quebrando o Tabu** (Breaking the Taboo), a Facebook page designed to increase awareness about human rights violations in Brazil. »»

11

grants were made by the Joint Brazil Programme in 2017, totalling USD 2.05 million.



1. A peaceful **Amigos do Casarão** protest against attempts to remove the residents of Casarão da Tamarineira: an abandoned house in downtown Recife, where 22 families have lived legally for more than 20 years.
2. The **Movimento dos Pimpadores** is a global movement that strives to promote, through art, the invaluable work of waste collectors.
3. For 22 years, Sebastião Duque has cleared recyclable materials from streets and mangroves in Recife, Brazil, and sold them to make a living.



Rebeca Lerer helped launch **Fogo Cruzado** (Crossfire), an application which collaboratively tracks gun violence around metropolitan regions in Brazil. Isabel Cavalcante with **Meu Recife** (My Recife) successfully campaigned to have cycle lanes built in Recife to help curb traffic in the city.

## What we do

Oak Foundation's Joint Brazil Programme (JBP) champions the rights, ideals and beliefs of passionate, committed and inspirational organisations and individuals, like Sebastião, Mundano, Guilherme, Rebeca and Isabel who are working to improve the lives of the most marginalised people in Recife.

“Recife is almost a microcosm of Brazil. All of the biggest issues of Brazil are really well represented here. On one hand this is challenging, on the other it also provides a pool of opportunities.”

- Mariana Ribeiro  
Communications and projects  
director, Nossas

It is these opportunities that the JBP is looking to capitalise on, especially given the lack of funding generally received by the northeast region of Brazil. “Recife has a vibrant and creative civil society,” says Adrian Arena, chair of the JBP. “We hope that our support in Recife will continue to inspire other funders to join us.”

All of the organisations mentioned in this article have benefited from grants from JBP, and are representative of its goals and aims. The Joint Brazil Programme currently focuses on four key programme areas: citizen security, mobility, quality urban space and citizen participation.



## Citizen Security

JBP seeks to improve citizen's safety in both public and private spheres by helping to: protect women, youth and children from violence and exploitation; build broad-based public campaigns to change the narrative around misrepresented communities; and develop and implement police and criminal justice reform strategies. **Gabinete de Assessoria Jurídica às Organizações Populares (GAJOP)** is a civil society organisation that advocates for the promotion and defence of human rights. "This is a very important time for organisations that advocate for human rights in Recife," says Deila Martins, executive coordinator of GAJOP.

Particularly influential in the areas of justice and security, GAJOP has helped to reform Brazil's security and justice systems and advocated for a new police service which emphasises better relationships between the community and police. Over the past 12 months, GAJOP has put pressure on the government to establish a council to review a controversial Brazilian programme called Pact for Life, which rewards police officers for fulfilling imprisonment quotas.

## Mobility

To assist its vision of improving mobility for all in Recife, JBP supports organisations that promote a people-centred vision for transport and develop projects and research that demonstrate the positive impact of citizen participation in transportation.

**Fundo ELAS** aims to integrate a gender perspective into ongoing discussions in Brazil around mobility. Through hosting a series of convening and dialogue sessions, ELAS has built bridges between women's rights organisations and groups working on mobility. "One of our convenings included a debate with women in Recife on topics including: sexual harassment on public transportation; violence in public spaces; racism and human rights violations in favelas; and limited public transportation for domestic workers," says Amalia Fischer, general coordinator for ELAS. "Through these convenings we have learned that addressing mobility and gender will help many people."

# 300:

The number of support groups for women and girls currently run by Fundo ELAS.

## Quality urban space

Oak supports organisations that work to protect the quality of urban space, particularly for vulnerable communities who would otherwise lack the capacity to confront developers and negotiate with government. »»



1. Members of the **Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Teto** are protesting violations of their right to housing.
2. The **Movimento Ocupe Estelita** banner reads "It's our city, let's occupy it!" The movement is a manifestation of the oppressed and exploited peoples of Recife speaking out against inequalities in society.



# 3,000:

The number of families whose forced eviction from their homes was prevented by the Centro Popular de Direitos Humanos.

The Centro Popular de Direitos Humanos (CPDH) has, among other projects, been influential in securing the rights of Recife's disadvantaged communities with respect to urban development, housing, employment and participation.

"We believe that we can build a fairer and more egalitarian society by advocating for the human rights of exploited populations and empowering them."

- Luana R. Varejão  
Centro Popular de Direitos Humanos

Last year, CPDH prevented the forced eviction of around 3,000 families from properties zoned for redevelopment and is currently supporting lawsuits addressing other housing issues

## Citizen participation

The fourth key programme area JBP focuses on is citizen participation, with the aim of promoting access to information and encouraging government and civil society to be proactive in investigating and negotiating policy options. **Marco Zero Conteúdo** (Ground Zero Content) is an investigative journalism agency that covers local news in its totality, inclusive of civil society voices, and provides informed comment after scrutinising and testing claims made by other mainstream media. Marco Zero Conteúdo challenges the prevailing

stigmatisation of civil society by the mainstream press as anti-business and anti-development. It seeks to encourage a more inclusive, rules-based, urban development for all.

## A way forward

In May 2017 we brought together our partners in Brazil to connect and to develop joint strategies together.

"It is time to strengthen our fight, to think about our actions and to work together to reach our goals," said Deila Martins from GAJOP.

We couldn't agree more! We look forward to working with our partners in the years to come and thank them for their tireless efforts.



1. The investigative journalism agency **Marco Zero Conteúdo** captured this powerful moment showing women protesting sexual and gender-based violence in Recife. Their banner reads "crimes against women are not crimes of passion." After this protest, the term "feminicídio" was accepted by the courts of Brazil.

2. A waste collector with **Movimento dos Pimpadores**.

3. **Fundo ELAS** works to integrate a gender perspective around mobility in Brazil by linking women's rights organisations and groups working on mobility.

# Grants



**Agencia Publica**  
**USD 349,994 (36 months)**  
 To provide core support to Agencia Pública to promote high quality, non-partisan investigative journalism in Brazil to help strengthen Brazilian democracy.

**Audisa Auditores Associados S/S**  
**USD 51,000 (12 months)**  
 To conduct 10 international-standard financial audits (in Portuguese and English) of Oak's Joint Brazil Programme grantees.

**Baobá – Fundo para Equidade Racial**  
**USD 242,104 (17 months)**  
 To provide support to Afro-Brazilian civil society organisations that develop and implement inspiring initiatives focused on citizen participation.

**Casa da Mulher do Nordeste**  
**USD 300,000 (36 months)**  
 To provide core support to Casa da Mulher do Nordeste to strengthen the economic and political autonomy of women.

**Centro Popular de Direitos Humanos (CPDH)**  
**USD 95,000 (10 months)**  
 To provide core support to CPDH to secure the rights of the city and the freedom of expression of Recife's disadvantaged communities.

**Escola de Ativismo**  
**USD 400,000 (36 months)**  
 To provide core support to Escola de Ativismo and strengthen groups working to defend democracy, sustainability and human rights.

**Fundo Socioambiental CASA**  
**USD 191,902 (36 months)**  
 To enable Fundo Socioambiental CASA to provide capacity building support to Ação Comunitária Caranguejo Uça to further its work in building a fair and equal society which contributes positively to people and communities.

**Instituto Betty e Jacob Lafer**  
**USD 30,000 (12 months)**  
 To bring together grant-making organisations in Brazil and to mobilise resources from high-income private individuals, with the aim of increasing the culture and practice of philanthropy around social causes.

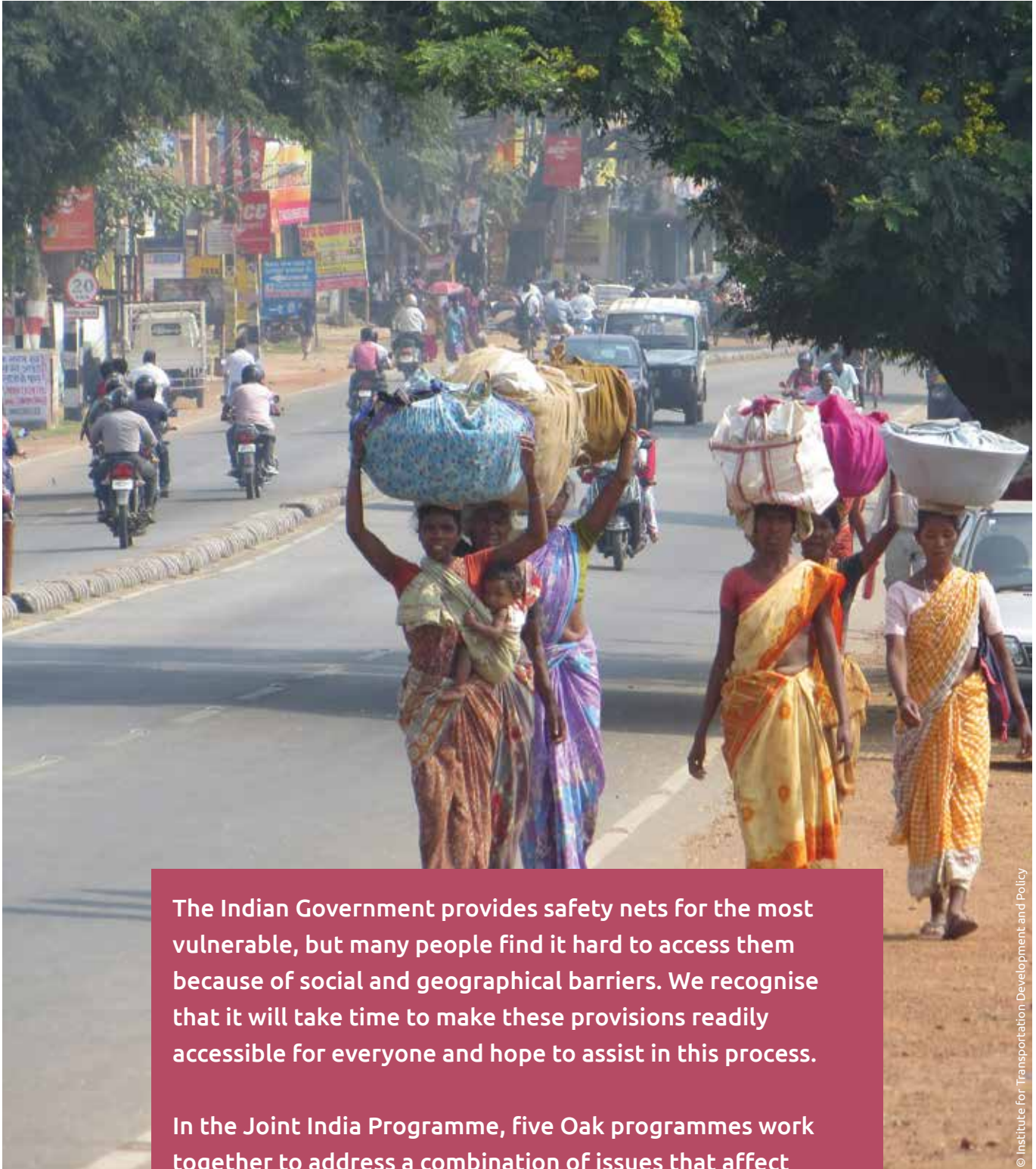
**Instituto Update**  
**USD 240,000 (12 months)**  
 To support Instituto Update to promote democratic practices in Brazil by mapping and giving visibility to initiatives that strengthen citizen participation processes.

**Marco Zero Conteúdo**  
**USD 100,000 (12 months)**  
 To highlight the Joint Brazil Programme issues through the production of multi-media content and its distribution through an online news portal and social media.

**Spray Filmes S.S.**  
**USD 50,000 (12 months)**  
 To support an online, multi-media portal called "Breaking the Taboo", which amplifies the work of JBP grantees.



# Joint India



The Indian Government provides safety nets for the most vulnerable, but many people find it hard to access them because of social and geographical barriers. We recognise that it will take time to make these provisions readily accessible for everyone and hope to assist in this process.

In the Joint India Programme, five Oak programmes work together to address a combination of issues that affect populations with limited access to resources in Jharkhand and West Bengal, located in east India. Ultimately, we aim to: improve the lives of the most marginalised groups; institutionalise practices that address poverty and social injustice; support people to assert their rights to identity and dignity; and build strong organisations at the grassroots.



## Inclusive cities: sustainable urban development for all

As India and other developing countries grow, many people flock to the cities to find work. Limited town planning results in burgeoning metropolises – such as the capital city of Ranchi in Jharkhand.

Many people in Jharkhand would benefit from better quality infrastructure, improved access to facilities, social security opportunities and shelter. Oak supports organisations which work with the government and state authorities to enable citizens to claim their legal entitlements and empower people to build inclusive and sustainable cities, which reduce pollution and improve their health and quality of life.

Our partners do this in a variety of ways, including through improved air quality and safer public transport systems, in particular for women, children and the elderly.

## Strengthening men in the informal sector

Rickshaw pulling is an example of a clean method of transport which also provides incomes to migrant men coming from marginalised communities in the countryside or other states in India. Often these men live in impoverished conditions and the garages they use

for their work are both unhygienic and unhealthy, lacking basic amenities such as toilets.

“I am keen on learning but the majority of rickshaw pullers are unaware of their rights. Once they are fully empowered, they too will dream of a better tomorrow, like I do.”

- Dasreth Oraon  
Rickshaw puller  
Jharkhand

**Maitri** launched Project Adhikar in 2015 to improve the lives of between 12,000 and 15,000 rickshaw pullers in the Ranchi Municipal Corporation. Maitri facilitates their access to citizens' entitlements including healthcare, better living conditions, sanitation and financial inclusion. ➤➤



**P68:** The Institute for Transport and Development Policy works with cities to develop sustainable transport solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve quality of life for people in urban settings.

**P69:** Oak supports organisations in India which strengthen men working in the informal sector. This includes **Maitri**, which launched Project Adhikar in 2015 to improve the lives of between 12,000 and 15,000 rickshaw pullers in Ranchi.

# 15

grants were made by the Joint India Programme in 2017, totalling USD 4.53 million.



Project Adhikar informs these men about relevant services and platforms to collectively demand improvement in their living and working conditions. It also works to instil a sense of identity, dignity and respect among rickshaw pullers.

## Protecting children

Access to justice is a fundamental feature of any democracy but can seem unattainable for those who cannot afford a lawyer to represent them. In India, where approximately one in five people live below the poverty line, navigating the legal system can be challenging.

The **Human Rights Law Network** (HRLN) is a group of lawyers and social activists dedicated to the use of the legal system to advance constitutional rights in India. Collaborating with more than 200 lawyers, paralegals and activists across 26 states, HRLN provides pro bono legal services to those who have little or no access to the justice system.

Among the many causes that HRLN champions, one of its priorities is public interest litigation. This enables the judiciary to look at key social issues in a broader context than an individual case provides.

“Many people in India struggle to access quality legal representation. Lawyers, like those provided by the Human Rights Law Network, ensure that the system also works for them.”

- Greg Mayne  
Programme Officer  
Oak Foundation

This approach can lead to decisions that produce far-reaching, systemic change. One of HRLN's successes with public interest litigation resulted in the Court ordering the state of Jharkhand in the east of India to reserve 25 per cent of places in schools for disadvantaged children. This ruling has opened up opportunities for some of Jharkhand's most vulnerable groups.





## Preventing homelessness

While the extent of homelessness in Jharkhand has not yet been documented, it is a very real possibility for people with limited resources migrating for work, and others forced to live as destitute due to chronic poverty. By carrying out studies to understand the reality of homelessness for people in Ranchi and across Jharkhand, **Ekjut** supports government officials to deal with the problem through training and inter-departmental actions. Ekjut staff also work directly with the homeless on the streets to inform them of their entitlements as citizens and to help them gain access to those rights.

## Empowering women

Women from marginalised communities are coming to cities in increasing numbers in search of work, education or to join their husbands as casual labourers. They often face extreme forms of exclusion and violence and are pushed to the peripheries of the city as invisible workers – without any access to benefits, or even knowledge of their legal entitlements. **Jagori** has worked for more than 30 years to end all forms of violence against women and build strong women's community collectives.

Jagori believes that women's safety is rooted in inclusivity. This includes women's rights to the city and their autonomy of movement in public spaces and right to safety at all times. To strengthen its work, Jagori, along

with local tribal and disability rights activists and other organisations, has joined hands with the Ranchi and Hazaribagh police and the One Stop Centre in Ranchi (which provides women in distress with temporary shelter and other assistance).

The **Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT)** works to empower women from the informal sector to make sure their voices are heard and considered when new policies that affect them are made. >>

**"It was very hard before, carrying bricks and mixing cement. We didn't even get properly paid. Now I am happy to learn new skills. It gives me confidence. Maybe one day I can build my own house!"**

- Female construction worker  
Karmika Training Centre  
Mahila Housing SEWA Trust



**P70 & P71: The Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT)** trains women in the informal sector to work in jobs traditionally dominated by men, such as brick-laying and plastering.

**Jagori believes that women's safety is rooted in inclusivity. It works with the police, women's shelters and activists groups to reach as many women as possible.**



**The Institute for Transportation Development and Policy finds ways to minimise traffic and streamline parking in Ranchi, so that the city centre stays accessible for all.**

MHT helps build women's collectives to strengthen their requests for secure housing, water, sanitation and tenorial security in the slums. This includes training women construction workers in jobs that are traditionally dominated by men, such as brick-laying, plastering, hand-pump restoration and toilet unit construction. As a result, women earn more and are employed for longer, increasing their incomes.

## Reducing greenhouse gases

The **Institute for Transportation Development and Policy (ITDP)**, along with its network partners, works with cities to develop sustainable transport solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve quality of life for people in urban settings. The ITDP team works to raise awareness about sustainable cities that are equitable and inclusive for all people. It also generates reports that inform city and state transport plans.

ITDP has helped the Department of Urban Planning to adopt an inclusive transport development policy. This includes a parking system designed to minimise traffic and streamline parking. This will allow everyone equal access to the street, from street vendors to car owners. The State Government has published parking regulations based on ITDP's suggestions.

## Building strength through collaboration

We believe that a collaborative approach is fundamental to building lasting solutions.

"Partners working on different issues formed an informal network called the Ranchi Urban Partnership to share information, support each other and advocate collectively on issues concerning urban poor," says Paromita Chowdhury, programme officer for Oak's Joint India Programme. "With time, organisations not funded by Oak are part of this forum as well. This is indeed an exciting time for us and our partners."



**P72:** Oak supports partners who aim to improve the lives of as many people as they can in Jharkhand and West Bengal. This includes supporting partners such as the **Institute for Transportation Development and Policy**, which works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**P73:** The **Mahila Housing SEWA Trust** works to empower women working in the informal sector.

# Grants



© Mahila Housing SEWA Trust



© Mahila Housing SEWA Trust

## **Azad Foundation**

**USD 465,566 (36 months)**

To train women in Kolkata to be professional drivers to enable them to secure economically viable livelihoods.

## **Basic Foundation**

**USD 337,196 (36 months)**

To strengthen response services for women and girls affected by gender-based violence in Jharkhand.

## **Bindrai Institute for Research Study and Action (BIRSA)**

**USD 49,719 (12 months)**

To continue to support the work of BIRSA Mines Monitoring Centre to strengthen its actions in Jharkhand.

## **Centre for Science and Environment**

**USD 397,945 (36 months)**

To support the work of Center for Science and Environment to ensure effective DMF implementation in key states in India.

## **Child in Need Institute - Jharkhand Unit (CINI)**

**USD 27,330 (5 months)**

To strengthen CINI's organisational systems on alternative approaches to childcare in Jharkhand, India.

## **Child Rights and You**

**USD 100,000 (36 months)**

To build grant compliance and administration capacity among Oak grantees in India with the ultimate aim of ensuring transparency and accountability.

## **Columbia Group for Children in Adversity**

**USD 55,000 (5 months)**

To develop, test and share community-led approaches that strengthen child protection mechanisms in Jharkhand.

## **Columbia Group for Children in Adversity**

**USD 408,115 (36 months)**

To use community-led approaches to sustain the wellbeing of children by enabling communities to exercise greater power and responsibilities.

## **Hope and Homes for Children**

**USD 447,000 (36 months)**

To strengthen child protection systems, policies and capacity in Jharkhand to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families.

## **Institute for Transportation and Development Policy**

**USD 600,000 (36 months)**

To support the creation of high-quality transport systems that make cities more liveable, equitable and sustainable.

## **Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)**

**USD 308,665 (36 months)**

To provide core support in order to improve, strengthen and build LIFE as a leading environmental legal justice, research and evidence-based advocacy organisation in India and South Asia.

## **OXFAM**

**USD 453,773 (24 months)**

To support communities in 45 villages from Jharkhand, India to sustain their livelihoods.

## **Save the Children India - Bal Raksha Bharat**

**USD 466,121 (36 months)**

To strengthen the Integrated Child Protection Scheme in order to reach children and families by training and placing a cohort of Community Cadres at the Panchayat level in selected districts of Jharkhand and West Bengal.

## **SEWA Bharat**

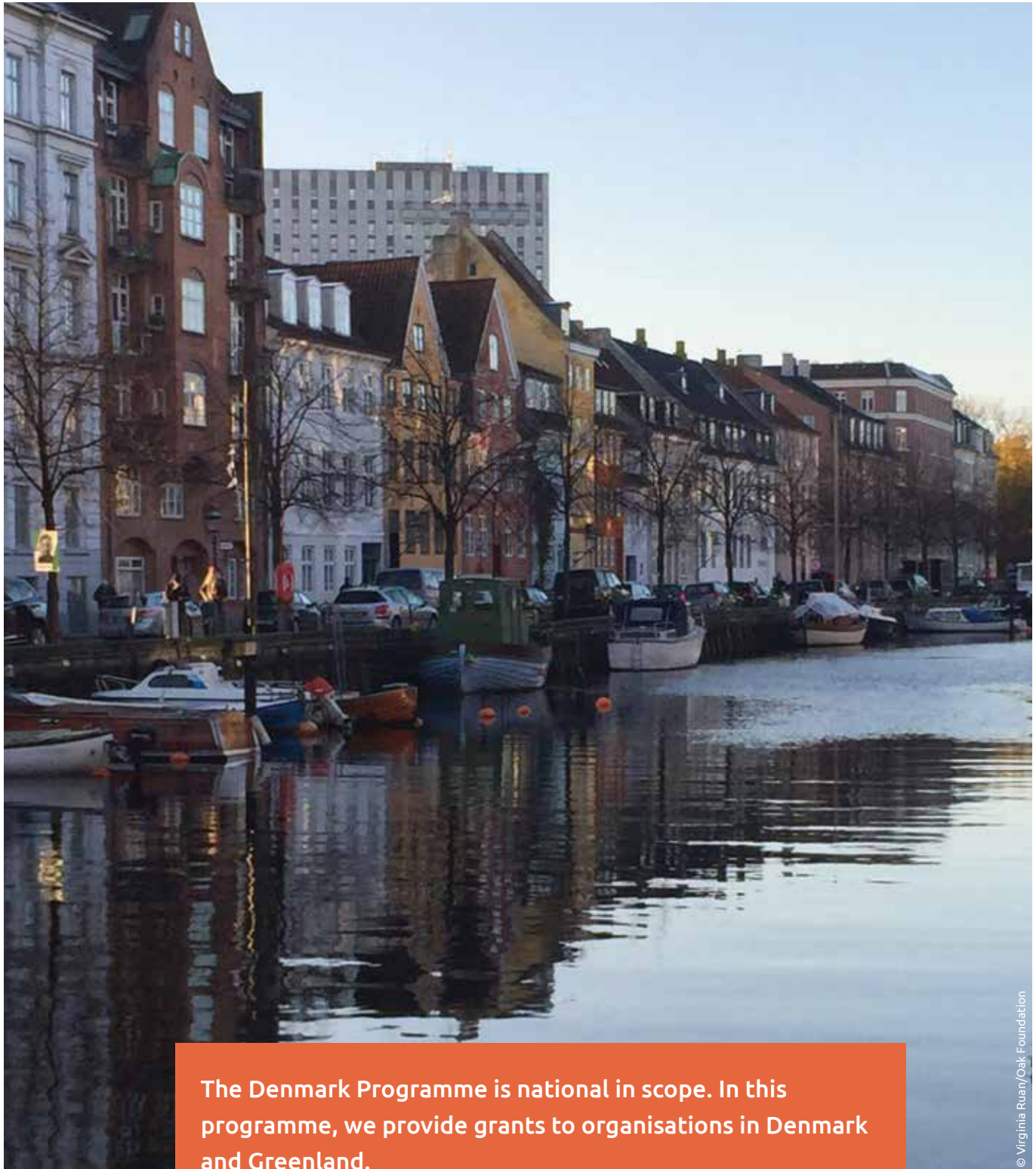
**USD 325,000 (36 months)**

To strengthen and expand the interventions to reduce poverty among marginalised women and girl bidi rollers and domestic workers in West Bengal.



This is a list of grants approved in 2017. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our website at [www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)

# Denmark



The Denmark Programme is national in scope. In this programme, we provide grants to organisations in Denmark and Greenland.

We seek innovative solutions that improve the daily lives and future prospects of socially vulnerable and marginalised groups. In particular, we focus on initiatives that target ethnic minority women, homeless people, mothers, children, immigrants and refugees.



## Stories

The stories within this section represent the diverse range of grants within the Denmark Programme.

### Baba: empowering fathers

"To me it is important that my children do not think of me like a tough banana the day I'm not here anymore," says one father who participates in Baba, a course that helps fathers take a more active role in their children's lives. "My 14-year-old has told her mother that I have become happier, more aware and open and that I do not shout so much anymore."

Baba is a not-for-profit organisation based in Copenhagen that works with a local group of volunteers to help fathers play more active roles in their children's lives. Research suggests that children who are raised by engaged fathers have a stronger sense of wellbeing and are less likely to get involved in crime or to develop addictive habits.<sup>1</sup>

"I take fathers to a graveyard and ask them to imagine that they are the ones buried deep in the grave," says Asim Latif, the executive director of Baba. "Then I ask them to imagine that their children are visiting them at their graves." At this moment Asim asks the fathers: "What do you want your children to remember about you?"

The response that fathers give to his question becomes the vision statement for a course on fatherhood. The course includes nine Saturdays and one full

weekend where fathers come together to develop practical action plans to become more active and engaged in their children's lives. "Like other change-management courses, it is built on cases, much like leadership development courses," says Asim. "We also encourage open dialogue with teachers, school principals and nurses who care for children, as well as peer-to-peer support."

"When I started the project three years ago, it was not easy," Asim said, "Since there had been many failed attempts at developing fatherhood courses in the past in Denmark, I spent four months speaking with 1,286 fathers to find out where to start." Asim learned a lot in this process, which has helped him recruit participants. "Although recruitment has been the biggest challenge, we have made an impact and it has become easier as the word spreads," he said.

When the course ends, fathers often take on leadership roles in their communities to help other fathers. "For example, one group of fathers developed a brochure on how fathers can be involved in their children's lives during their first year after birth," says Asim. "And nurses in hospitals are now sharing this brochure with fathers."



The photos in the Denmark section of the Annual Report illustrate some of the diverse work carried out by our partners in Denmark.

# 16

grants were made by the Denmark Programme in 2017, totalling USD 4.99 million.



Find out more at  
[www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)



**It is estimated that between 10,000 and 15,000 homeless people live in Denmark. These include women and young people.**

**Project UDEFOR reaches out to them in several ways, including through a mobile café and public outreach and advocacy work.**

## Project UDEFOR

Project UDEFOR is a not-for-profit organisation that works with homeless people in Denmark. UDEFOR is Danish for "outside". "We are called 'outside' because all of our work takes place outdoors and we operate outside of the government structure," says Ninna Hoegh, director of Project UDEFOR. "We have been operating for 20 years in the two largest cities in Denmark, Copenhagen and Aarhus," she says.

With the help of about 40 volunteers and 20 staff members, Project UDEFOR has many outreach activities. These include: a mobile café, which takes warm clothes and healthy, delicious food to the homeless in various parts of Copenhagen; public outreach and advocacy work; and research. "We build relationships with the homeless and help them based on their needs; sometimes this is a warm cup of coffee and a conversation and other times it involves a trip to hospital," explains Ninna.

Data<sup>1</sup> from 2011 suggests that there are 6,000 homeless people in Denmark. "However, this count has generally only included the homeless in shelters," says Ninna. Experts estimate that between 10,000 and 15,000 homeless people live in Denmark, about half of whom are in the Copenhagen metropolitan area. "We work with the government to understand what these numbers mean and to count the homeless population accurately," she says.

Last year, data was released which confirmed that there are more than 225 young homeless people in Copenhagen.

When the data was released, UDEFOR staff and volunteers used chalk to draw the shapes of 225 human beings on the ground in front of the Government Office responsible for homelessness. "We wanted the government to do more to support young homeless people," says Ninna. In addition, staff at Project UDEFOR have worked with youth to elevate their own voices. For example, they brought together homeless youth to write and publish poetry about how they feel.

Other data that has been released in recent times includes a sharp increase in the number of women who are homeless – they now account for nearly 25 per cent of the homeless population. "Our hope is to understand these women's needs to help overcome stereotypes and support them," says Anne-Sofie Wieland Maini-Thorsen, an anthropologist hired to conduct research on this topic.

Oak has supported Project UDEFOR since 2013.

### Poem written by a young homeless person

Fornemmelsen af at falde  
Uden at ramme Jorden  
Som et mess  
Af følelser

The feeling of falling  
Without touching the ground  
Is like a mess  
Of confusion.

**References: Please see page 84 of this report.**

# Grants



© Virginia Ruany/Oak Foundation



© Baba

## **BABA - Fonden for Socialt Ansvar**

**USD 42,796 (12 months)**

To provide support to Baba, which helps fathers in Copenhagen take more active roles in their children's lives.

## **D-factor, VerdensBørn i samarbejde med FO-Århus**

**USD 23,716 (12 months)**

To support D-factor, VerdensBørn FO-Århus, a theatre group for young people.

## **Dansk Kvindesamfunds Krisecenter**

**USD 198,483 (12 months)**

To support Dansk Kvindesamfunds Krisecenter to establish a new shelter for mothers and their children.

## **Dansk Stalking Center**

**USD 998,125 (36 months)**

To support Dansk Stalking Center to prevent and reduce the impact of stalking on victims and their families, including children of victims of stalking.

## **Fonden Mødrehjælpen**

**USD 428,161 (36 months)**

To support Fonden Mødrehjælpen in Aalborg, Denmark, to provide a holistic programme of support for young pregnant women and young mothers.

## **Fonden project UDEFOR**

**USD 25,849 (12 months)**

To support UDEFOR to raise awareness around the issue of homeless women in Denmark.

## **Fødevarerbanken**

**USD 829,529 (36 months)**

To support Fødevarerbanken, a not-for-profit foodbank, which works to reduce food waste and help socially disadvantaged people.

## **Horton Hovedpineforening**

**USD 213,980 (12 months)**

To provide support to Horton Hovedpineforening, which works to ensure that members who are ill remain active and have good living conditions.

## **ISHTAR**

**USD 499,287 (36 months)**

To support a group of women of ethnic minority to develop their shop into a gourmet food store in Nørrebro in Copenhagen.

## **Jyske Bank – MurMal**

**USD 74,151 (12 months)**

To bring young people together around a project to design a wall mural for an old people's home in the city Kommune Kujalleq in the south of Greenland.

## **Kirkens Korshær**

**USD 74,037 (12 months)**

To establish group activities in Nordborg and its surroundings, a region with high unemployment, in order to benefit socially disadvantaged people.

## **Københavns Universitet – Forskningscenter for Migration, Ethnicitet og Sundhed**

**USD 110,371 (24 months)**

To provide support to the Danish Research Centre for Migration, Ethnicity and Health at Copenhagen University by carrying out research on children being born to undocumented migrants in Denmark.

## **Landsorganisation af Kvindekrisecentre (LOKK)**

**USD 316,049 (24 months)**

To support the reconstruction of LOKK – a group of crisis centres in Denmark – to become a modern, sustainable and more business-oriented organisation.

## **Mary Fonden**

**USD 248,217 (24 months)**

To support Kattunneq, which builds the capacity of women's shelters in Greenland.

## **Muhabet**

**USD 496,422 (24 months)**

To support Muhabet, a drop-in centre for mentally ill and traumatised people that focuses on helping asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in particular.

## **Sankt Lukas Stiftelsen**

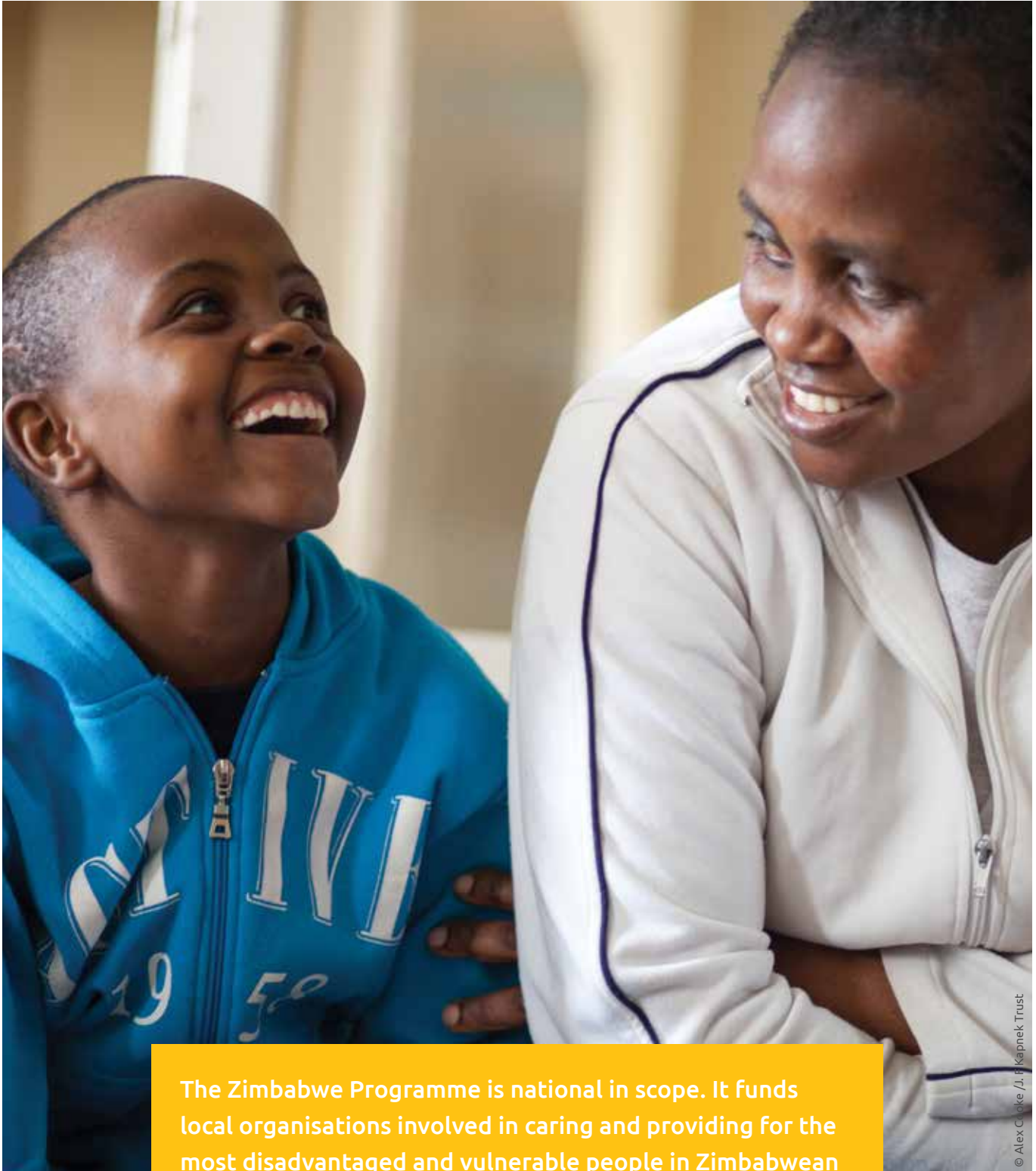
**USD 413,695 (12 months)**

To provide support to Sankt Lukas Stiftelsen's project Lukashuset, which provides holistic care to palliatively ill children and support to their families.



This is a list of grants approved in 2017. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our website at [www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org).

# Zimbabwe



© Alex Cooke / I. Kapnek Trust

The Zimbabwe Programme is national in scope. It funds local organisations involved in caring and providing for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in Zimbabwean society.

We support organisations operating in the following priority areas: healthcare, including HIV/AIDS; rural water supplies; special needs education; and services that help vulnerable women, children and elderly persons.





## Stories

The stories within this section represent the diverse range of grants within the Zimbabwe Programme.

### Progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS

When Mrs Magaba tested positive for HIV, she thought there was no hope for her to have a healthy baby. However, when the **Family AIDS Caring Trust of Chiredzi** made Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) treatment available at a nearby clinic, Mrs Magaba signed up. She took the treatment, brought her son to term and gave birth. When tested for HIV six months later, the baby boy tested negative for HIV. "Right now my child is healthy," said Mrs Magaba. "He is eating well and he is no longer on medication."

Mrs Magaba's son's success story is one of many. PMTCT treatment has been successful in reducing transmission rates of HIV from mother to child in Africa and around the world. According to the World Health Organization, PMTCT reduces the transmission of HIV between mother and child to less than five per cent<sup>1</sup>. "I really appreciate the service providers at the clinic for the lessons and training we receive," said Mrs Magaba. "Right now we are looking forward to a bright future."

In Zimbabwe, the Family AIDS Caring Trust Chiredzi has been working towards a HIV-free Zimbabwe since 1992. Some of the services it provides include health examinations at schools, education programmes on HIV for children and adults, and PMTCT treatment.

Established in 1989 by Sister Noreen Nolan, the **Mashambanzou Care Trust** provides care and support to people living with, and affected by, HIV and AIDS in Harare. The Mashambanzou Care Unit is a drop-in medical facility that provides HIV testing services, counselling and self-help programmes for HIV-positive women. "We can see the difference in the women who take part," says Sister Margaret, one of the sisters who works for Mashambanzou Care Unit. "They start to open up; there is light in their eyes."

The **Family Action for Community Empowerment in Zimbabwe (FACE)** works to improve the livelihoods and health of people in Rusape, Zimbabwe. FACE addresses this through its income-generating programme, which provides courses to members of the community on food security, medical training and sustainable livelihood methods. It also provides support groups for people at risk of contracting HIV.

"FACE is doing great work," says Merciful Machuwe, programme officer for Oak's Zimbabwe Programme. >>

# 15

grants were made by the Zimbabwe Programme in 2017, totalling USD 0.97 million.





**Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) treatment reduces the transmission of HIV from mother to child to less than**

**5 %**

"It has not only proved to be a haven and resource for many people but also a springboard to restart their lives."

**"In the last 15 years, the programme has grown from one small clinic to 850. More than 250,000 women are now tested for HIV each year."**

**- Dr. Daniel Robbins  
J.F.Kapnek Trust**

**The J.F.Kapnek Trust** works to reduce child mortality and creates educational opportunities for Zimbabwean youth.

To achieve these goals, the Trust operates an HIV/AIDS prevention programme in Zimbabwe and provides financial support to thousands of orphans and disabled children.

"Most paediatric HIV comes from mother to child transmission at birth," says Dr. Daniel Robbins. "So we developed the national programme, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV."

## 60 years of dance

To mark six decades of its work, **Dance Trust Zimbabwe** has been partnering with international organisations to showcase the impact dance and the Trust has made on Zimbabwe's Harare community.

Not only has the Trust provided the community with exciting, international opportunities, but it has opened doors for many aspiring artists, dancers and choreographers to launch into international careers.

Leah Nelson is a Zimbabwe-born dancer who, through her connection to the Dance Trust of Zimbabwe, won a scholarship to study performing arts in the United States. She is happy to see that increasing numbers of children in Zimbabwe are learning about ballet.

"The quality of their work is just phenomenal," says Leah. "I am also really happy to see several male dancers venturing into classical dance and taking it seriously – something which was rare to see when I started pursuing a career in dance."



The photographs in the Zimbabwe section of this report have been provided by our partners and illustrate the diverse work being carried out in Zimbabwe.

# Grants



© Alex Cooke / J. F. Kapnek Trust



© Alex Cooke / J. F. Kapnek Trust

## HIV/AIDS

### Bethany Project

**USD 72,854 (12 months)**

To mobilise communities to promote the wellbeing of children affected by HIV/AIDS in the south of Zimbabwe.

### Family AIDS Caring Trust, Chiredzi

**USD 31,195 (12 months)**

To reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and mitigate its impact by empowering communities through training and awareness raising.

### Family AIDS Caring Trust, Rusape

**USD 55,483 (12 months)**

To improve the quality of life of people with HIV and AIDS in the Makoni District of Manicaland Province and Marondera, Mrewa, Mutoko and Mudzi Districts of Mashonal and East Province.

### Island Hospice and Bereavement Services

**USD 80,112 (12 months)**

To provide quality palliative care services for the ill and support to the bereaved through: comprehensive direct care; service provider capacity development; partnerships; research; and advocacy.

### Mashambanzou Care Trust

**USD 64,557 (12 months)**

To provide quality integrated services and empower the most vulnerable communities to deal with HIV and AIDS.

### Midlands AIDS Service Organization

**USD 39,100 (12 months)**

To create safer environments for children which ensure their care and protection and support their growth and development.

### National St Johns Council for the Republic of Zimbabwe

**USD 67,579 (12 months)**

To continue to strengthen the care-giving skills of communities, families and young people in healthcare so that they can help people infected with and by HIV/AIDS.

## Special Needs Education

### Dance Trust of Zimbabwe (formerly National Ballet of Zimbabwe)

**USD 39,521 (12 months)**

To promote the art of dance in Zimbabwe.

### Isheanesu Multi-purpose Centre for Disabled Children

**USD 19,200 (12 months)**

To provide support to children with disabilities and their families.

### J.F. Kapnek Trust

**USD 53,493 (12 months)**

To renovate and refurbish classrooms at primary schools in Zvimba District for the use of 200 children, and to improve the health of 5,800 early childhood development students in Sanyati District.

### NZEVE Deaf Children's Centre

**USD 49,829 (12 months)**

To increase access to early intervention healthcare for deaf children and their families.

### Sir Humphrey Gibbs Training Centre

**USD 17,369 (12 months)**

To promote and facilitate the provision of high quality special needs education and care for adults with intellectual disabilities at Sir Humphrey Gibbs Training Centre.

### Zimcare Trust

**USD 335,509 (12 months)**

To facilitate an environment in which all learning and care programmes are anchored around individual needs so that each person is assisted to excel.

## Other

### Rotary Club Harare Dawn

**USD 9,188 (3 months)**

To buy medical equipment for use in some of Zimbabwe's hospitals.

## Women, children and elderly at risk

### Simukai Child Protection Program

**USD 35,000 (12 months)**

To support the Simukai Child Protection Program to provide for the social, physical, psychological and spiritual needs of vulnerable children and youth.



This is a list of grants approved in 2017. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our grant database at [www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org)

# Oak staff and addresses

This list represents all staff during the 2017 calendar year.

Please visit our website [www.oakfnd.org](http://www.oakfnd.org) for a list of current staff.

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## Comments

Please email [commdept@oakfnd.org](mailto:commdept@oakfnd.org) if you would like to provide feedback on this Annual Report.

We would like to thank Natalie Odrich for her help laying out this report.

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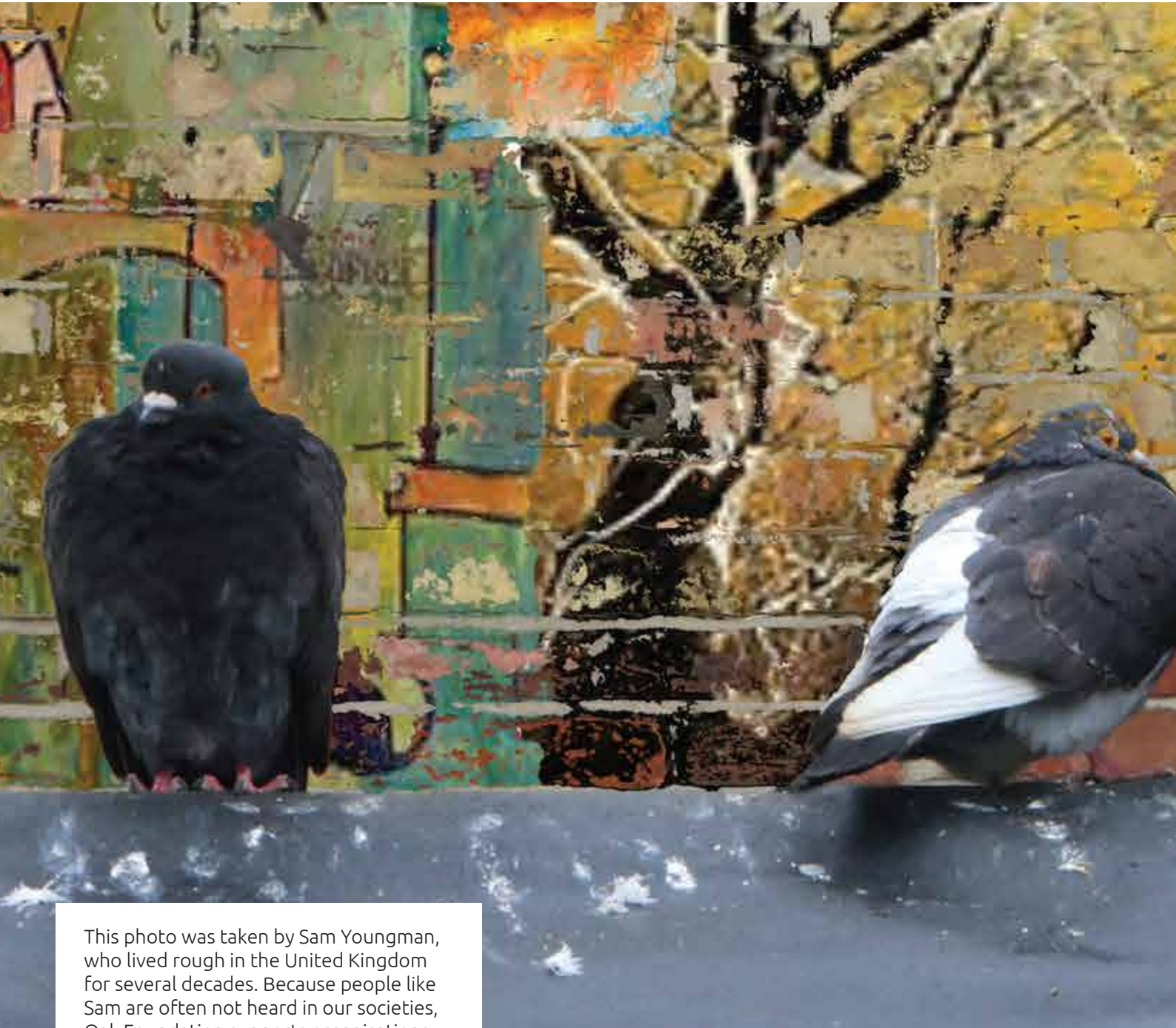
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## Disclaimer

The editors have tried to ensure the accuracy of this report but cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. A few grants are not listed in this Annual Report.





This photo was taken by Sam Youngman, who lived rough in the United Kingdom for several decades. Because people like Sam are often not heard in our societies, Oak Foundation supports organisations that work to elevate their voices. We believe that together, we can create a more inclusive world for everyone. Read Sam's story on the inside front cover.

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