

**The Baring
Foundation**

Report on activities 2019





OUR ANNIVERSARY
EVENT WAS HELD ON
25 MARCH 2019, 50 YEARS
TO THE DAY THAT THE
BARING FOUNDATION WAS
LEGALLY ESTABLISHED.

Kindly hosted as ever by ING Bank, we were delighted to see grant-holders from across the Foundation's programmes, current and former trustees, and current and former staff.

A small volume – *A History of the Baring Foundation in Fifty Grants* – was also produced for the occasion, with six specially commissioned woodcuts by artist, Hilary Paynter¹.

¹ see page 28.

All photos by Iona Wolff.



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Our purpose and values

Purpose

We are an independent foundation which protects and advances human rights and promotes inclusion. We believe in the role of a strong, independent civil society nationally and internationally. We use our resources to enable civil society to work with people experiencing discrimination and disadvantage and to act strategically to tackle the root causes of injustice and inequality.

Values

COLLABORATION

We seek to build positive, purposeful partnerships with grant recipients, grantmakers and others in order to work together for socially just change.

CREATIVITY AND FLEXIBILITY

We use our funds to strengthen civil society, responding creatively, flexibly and pragmatically.

LEARNING

We add value to our work by encouraging the development and communication of knowledge and evidence.

OPENNESS AND RESPECT

We aim to be as accessible as possible within clear programme guidelines, treating grant-seekers and grant recipients with courtesy and respect.

SUSTAINABILITY

We help to create enduring change both in the lives of those served by the work we are funding and by building the capacity of organisations to become more sustainable and resilient. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework for our work.

VOICE

We believe in the importance of ‘speaking truth to power’ and use the independence and influence we have to amplify the views of civil society and the people it serves.

Responsible Investment Statement

We recognise that both our investment decisions and grantmaking have an impact on society and the environment. Consequently, we expect our investment managers to encourage the businesses, in which they invest on our behalf, to make a positive contribution to environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. We believe this approach will enable the Foundation to continue to generate attractive long term returns and provide liquidity for continuity of grant making in real terms. We will ask our investment managers to brief us regularly about the specific engagement initiatives they have undertaken with businesses in which they invest, aiming to ensure that ESG issues are handled in a way which aligns both with the purpose and values of the Foundation and our grant recipients. We will seek to use the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework for observing the impact of our investments.

Message from our Chair

Janet Morrison OBE

2019 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the Baring Foundation. We were proud to welcome many friends and grantees to our 50th birthday party – including Nicholas Baring, a former Chair and one of the original signatories to our founding articles. The occasion provided an opportunity for us to reflect on the many compelling causes we have been privileged to support over the years, as amply illustrated in our anniversary publication *A History of the Baring Foundation in Fifty Grants*².

Fifty Grants is more than simply a sample of our grants, it's a testament to the hard work, guts and sheer determination of communities and social reformers. It is an account of the emerging causes and issues given voice over the decades. The range is eclectic and diverse – from international development, to grassroots community development, to infrastructure bodies. From young people, to women, to black and minority ethnic communities, to HIV and AIDS, the arts.

2020 marks the end of my tenure as a trustee and Chair of the Foundation which I have been so privileged to serve alongside a very talented board of trustees and dedicated staff. What is apparent as I look back over my years of involvement, is that as a foundation we have become ever more articulate and confident about the golden thread that runs through

our grantmaking: the fundamental belief in the value of civil society, its power to give voice to those who go unheard, to empower communities, challenge discrimination and disadvantage and redress the imbalance of power within society.

In my time, I have seen through a programme on the Arts and Older People that has passionately believed in the value of creativity to engage the spirit and passions of older people – a cause very close to my heart. We have launched our Strengthening Civil Society programme which promotes the use of human rights and the law to bring about systemic change for discriminated against communities; a programme which is now building a coherent body of work and learning and convening an ever wider pool of advocates and campaigners. And we have also launched our International Development programme empowering LGBTI communities in sub-Saharan Africa, working through grassroots intermediaries to find hard pressed community champions promoting rights.

Deciding on these priorities has required our trustees to be bold, not cautious or risk averse. But our courage has been inspired by the sheer bravery and determination of the frontline communities and activists working in these fields, often for little reward and sometimes, at risk to themselves.

“We have been inspired by the sheer bravery and determination of the frontline communities and activists working in these fields, often for little reward and sometimes, at risk to themselves.”

² See page 2.



Janet Morrison at the Baring Foundation anniversary event on 25 March 2019.

In 2019, we also paused to reflect on the contribution and commitment of Tessa Baring – our former Chair and dear friend who died in May. As trustee of the Baring Foundation, she steered us through the choppy waters of the Bank's collapse and determined our future strategy. A founder and chair of the Association of Charitable Foundations and a long-time advocate for St Michael's Fellowship supporting disadvantaged families, she was strategic, insightful and passionate, but never grand and always fun. Her spirit and beliefs live on in our work today.

Like many in our sector, the Baring Foundation thinks hard about its purpose and values and how it can strive to continuously improve its work. We recognise that the privilege of philanthropy brings with it great responsibilities in how we use our resources and share our power. We believe in the role of a strong, independent civil society nationally and internationally. We use our independence to protect and advance human rights and promote inclusion. We apply our resources to enable civil society to work with people experiencing discrimination and disadvantage and to act strategically to tackle the root causes of injustice and inequality.

“We remain angry about social injustice and deprivation, and support those who strive to address it – though their actions large and small.”

We remain angry about social injustice and deprivation, and support those who strive to address it – though their actions large and small. We champion the right to speak out and the importance of voluntary and community action as part of our social fabric. We work with others to protect and strengthen it. We know our impact is small and we remain humbled by those who work so hard to change society for the better.

I shall be very sorry to leave the Foundation in 2020 but being involved, in my own small way, has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. I have learned an immense amount and despite the challenging causes we serve, also had a huge amount of inspiration – and a lot of fun.

Message from our Director

David Cutler

2019 will doubtless be remembered as a 'bumpy year' for many people, but it was a highly productive one for the Foundation. We marked our fiftieth anniversary in a slightly unconventional way with a publication called *A History of the Baring Foundation in Fifty Grants* as a reminder that our story is really one of the degree to which our funding has had an impact through the hard work of others.

Fifty Grants was a significant part of a bumper year for our communications led by Harriet Lowe. This included a dozen reports covering all three of our programmes and many blogs including from grant recipients. We also broadened our approach to communications with a number of innovations, such as a survey of the creative ageing field, commissioning openDemocracy to report on *The Unlawful State* and agreeing our first commercially published work, *The Artist in Time*, with Bloomsbury to be on the bookshop shelves in 2020.

“The heart of our work is our three grants programmes, all at different stages and using varied techniques but all funding inspiring work during the year.”

The heart of our work is our three grants programmes, all at different stages and using varied techniques but all funding inspiring work during the year.

The International Development (see page 18) and Strengthening Civil Society (see page 14) programmes are led to great effect by the Deputy Director, David Sampson.

2019 was the final year of a decade of funding for creative ageing (see page 10), with a number of sustainability grants in the four nations, as well as research for our upcoming theme of arts and mental health. We commissioned King's College London to look at the development of the creative ageing sector over the last decade, which concluded in its review – *Older and Wiser?* – that, while unfinished business remained, a step change had occurred.

The International Development programme continued to focus on LBQ women and Trans communities in Africa. Most funding goes through African regional specialist funders and we made a major foundational grant for work in West Africa. We also extended to some direct funding to a small number of South African activist organisations. We continue to support work in the UK only when this holds the promise of increased resources to these causes.

A highpoint for the year for the Strengthening Civil Society programme, which focuses on the use of the law by the voluntary sector for social change, was a very successful conference for campaigners delivered by the Sheila McKechnie Foundation. We made a series of large grants to expert legal hub organisations with our funding partners The Legal Education Foundation and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and launched a new fund for implementing successful strategic litigation.



Nicholas Baring, David Cutler and Janet Morrison at our 50th anniversary event on 25 March 2019.

We were sad to say goodbye to Rowena Teall who had done such a great job as Programmes Officer, but who stays within the philanthropic sector. We were delighted to welcome to the role Jannat Hossain who comes with a strong track record in campaigning with social justice organisations.

The portfolio of the Foundation enjoyed strong growth reaching a real terms high. The Foundation invests for the long term and recognises that our investments will inevitably experience bad years as well as good. However the trustees felt that the Foundation could move to a slightly increased rate of spending in 2020 to 3.77% from 3.5%, remembering that the purpose of our money is to be spent for the benefit of the people and communities that we seek to support. The Foundation also agreed to move some of its funds already invested with Baillie Gifford to two new funds which align well with our values.

I never forget how lucky I am to work with such a talented team of colleagues. In particular I would like to mention Barbara Allerhand, our Finance Officer and Ann Blyth-Tancock, our Administration Officer. The high-quality financial management and administration of

the Foundation are not an accident but the result of their care, skill and dedication. We continue to be grateful to ING Bank which has been such an important part of our story since the collapse of Baring Bros. in 1995 and since then has generously supported us through free accommodation and pro bono services.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to say what a complete pleasure it has been to work for Janet Morrison, who will stand down next year as our Chair after six years. She has a unique combination of strategic brilliance, decency and humour!

Funding overview 2019

£ 2,399,189

Total grant funding

over **43** grants

Grants by programme

Strengthening Civil Society

£1,092,244



International Development

£520,000



Arts

£771,945



Other

£15,000

Grants by size

13

Grants of
up to £10,000



16

Grants
£11,000 – £50,000



8

Grants
£51,000 –
£100,000



6

Grants
£101,000+



Arts

Engaging the talent, experience and enthusiasm of older people in the creative arts

Looking back

2019 marked the end of a decade of funding for arts and older people. This new funding focus by the Foundation was launched in late 2009 with a mapping study of the field called *Ageing Artfully*. To gain an independent view of what had happened generally in creative ageing in the UK over those ten years, we ran a limited competition to commission an academic review. We appointed King's College London which published a report - *Older and Wiser? Creative ageing in the UK 2010-19* - towards the end of the year. While the report identified a number of areas of unfinished business, it also concluded that a step change had taken place. We held a reception in November to thank our many partners over the years, as well as to launch *Older and Wiser?* and a compilation of work from overseas, *Around the World in 80 Creative Ageing Projects*.

These reports added to a back catalogue of forty publications on our website on creative ageing as a permanent contribution to the field, as well as an almost equal number of blogs on almost every conceivable aspect of creative ageing.

Ongoing activity in 2019

A number of projects developed in previous years continued to run. The largest of these was a joint fund of £3 million with the Arts Council England called *Celebrating Age* which has given up to £100,000 to 32 projects led by arts organisations but working with older people's organisations. Most of these operated throughout the year, bringing hundreds of activities to older people in communities

across the country. A whole series of other projects continued work, such as a joint grant with the Life Changes Trust to set up a dementia inclusive singing network across Scotland and with Creative Scotland for arts training in care homes.

Filling in the gaps

Much of our funding for 2019 was already committed and it was decided that the remaining sums could best be used on 'filling in gaps' of areas of work that had received less attention in our portfolio of work to date. Examples included the publication by Orchestras Live of *Bingo to Bartok*, looking at orchestras and creative ageing, funding for a comedy fringe in Leicester, exemplar projects and guidance for visual arts in care homes to be called *The Beautiful Care Home*, and a conference on digital arts and ageing to be held in 2020 in Liverpool.

Sustainability

Although we will move to a new funding area next year, we are keen that there is no loss of momentum for creative ageing. Therefore we gave money to initiatives in each of the four nations with this in mind. In England, after a competition, we awarded £250,000 over three years to a consortium led by Manchester Museum to set up a sector support body for creative ageing in England under the working title of The Agency. In Scotland, Luminate already occupies this role and we pledged core funding to them for four years, complementing a commitment by Creative Scotland. In Wales, we committed with the Arts Council Wales to a further two years of funding for the artists



Elixir Extracts at Sadler's Wells. Photo © Ellie Kurttz, courtesy of Sadler's Wells.

in residence in care homes scheme, cARTrefu. We were also delighted that HRH The Prince of Wales was able to visit a care home in Neath to see the cARTrefu programme first-hand and meet the residents participating. In Northern Ireland, we partnered with the Arts Council Northern Ireland and the Public Health Agency to set up a new three-year fund for Arts and Dementia (see page 12).

In addition we piloted with the Rayne Foundation a new National Day of Arts in Care Homes run by NAPA (the National Activity Providers Association) (see page 13). On the basis of a very successful first National Day on 24th September, we have agreed funding for a further four years. We have also commissioned with ACE the MAC (Midland Arts Centre) in Birmingham to hold a one day conference on the state of play of creative ageing in England on 5th February 2020, which included a key note speech by the Chair of the ACE, Sir Nick Serota.

Looking forward

Much of the year was spent by the Director researching a mapping study for our next programme on arts and mental health. *Creatively Minded*, published in early 2020, identifies almost 170 organisations across the UK engaging people with mental health problems creatively, in a complicated, organic and fragmented pattern across the UK. Work has emerged from different traditions, some leaning more towards activism and human rights and others more towards treatment and recovery.

Spending the last decade on creative ageing has been an immense and inspiring privilege. Arts and mental health promises to be no less stimulating and rewarding.

ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

Arts to improve health and wellbeing among older people in Northern Ireland

The Arts Council Northern Ireland has run an Arts & Older People Programme since 2010 and focuses on various themes, including isolation, poverty, health and strengthening the voice of older people.

It has engaged over 28,000 older participants through over 180 artist-led projects, investing nearly £2 million along with the Baring Foundation and the Public Health Agency.

Grants are given to both arts organisations and non-arts community organisations. In 2019, grants were given for example to:

Play Resource Warehouse in partnership with Libraries Northern Ireland to develop a programme of creative activities from story-telling and photography to calligraphy, weaving and ceramics.

Streetwise Community Circus for an Age-ility Circus delivering circus skills with people with dementia and their carers.

Live Music Now to run a programme of music sessions in a day centre, a Therapy and Assessment Unit and a care home.

The Programme has also provided training sessions on self-care for artists and run a festival to raise the profile of creative ageing. It has also produced five powerful short films about the benefits of arts for people living with dementia.

As one of the final grants of our Arts & Older People funding programme, the Baring Foundation made a further grant towards ACNI's new fund for Arts & Dementia in 2019.



Elly Taylor³ at the Streetwise Community Circus, Northern Ireland. Photo © Ollie Harrop.

“The arts have a vital role to play in helping older people find their voice and promote positive physical and mental health. Alongside our partners, Baring Foundation and Public Health Agency, ACNI is proud to have supported 184 arts projects for older people since the programme began. We now look forward to the new phase of this programme, which places a focus on using the arts as a tool to better the lives of our older people living with dementia.”

Lorraine Calderwood, Arts Council Northern Ireland

³ Elly Taylor is a long-standing member of the Streetwise Community Circus. An interview with Elly can be found in the forthcoming book, *The Artist in Time*, by Chris Fite-Wassilak, commissioned by the Foundation and to be published by Bloomsbury Publishing (available from May 2020).



Celebrating Arts in Care Homes National Day at Tilsley House in Weston Super Mare.

Supporting the first ever National Arts in Care Homes Day

September 24 last year was the first ever national day for Arts in Care Homes.

Run by the National Activity Providers Association (NAPA) and funded jointly by the Baring Foundation and the Rayne Foundation, the day was commissioned by us to raise awareness about the fantastic arts activity that goes on regularly in some care homes and to encourage others to join in.

“All of the care homes I worked with mentioned to me that they didn’t have ‘stuff like this’ (music) going on in their care homes already.”

Musician, Greyc Music

To support care homes, NAPA developed a website⁴ which provided resources and ideas for developing workshops and

events. These included the *Treasury of Arts Activities for Older People*, published by the Foundation earlier in 2019 and a selection of ‘How to’ guides.

NAPA developed a ready-made project – Only Connect – which focused on creative letter-writing and developing pen pal partnerships. The pack included letters as inspiration from the archives of the Royal Albert Hall and the Georgian Papers Programme at the Royal Library.

National Arts in Care Homes Day has recently received funding for another four years.

“Having a National Day provides a focus for people to share the wonderful things they are doing and inspires new people to get involved too. In 2020, we hope to get even more people on board, organising arts activities and events to enhance the wellbeing, health and happiness of people living and working in care homes across England.”

Alison Teader, Arts in Care Homes Project Manager

⁴ www.artsincarehomes.org.uk

Strengthening Civil Society

Supporting the use of the law and human rights based approaches by civil society

At the heart of this programme is a belief that legal action is a crucial tool in tackling discrimination and disadvantage and a determination to make this tool better understood and more accessible to civil society in the UK. In 2019, we supported new work by organisations to act as ‘hubs’ of legal action, offered further funding for current projects and developed the evidence base for legal action by civil society.

The programme is a collaboration with The Legal Education Foundation and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. We are grateful to both Foundations and their staff teams for their ongoing support for this work.

We are now in our fourth year and many of our longer term projects have been delivering exciting results. There have been some important legal challenges led and supported by grantholders (see overleaf) but – as importantly – organisations continue to develop their understanding of legal action and to build effective and purposeful collaborations with lawyers and legal organisations.

However, understanding of legal action is far from consistent across the sector and many organisations see no link between these tools and their purpose, strategy and activities, or are wary of using them. In 2019, we continued to raise awareness of legal action as a tool of social change through convening, publications and research.

We are reviewing our strategy for this programme in early 2020 and undertook an evaluation of the programme to date during

the second half of 2019. We aim to publish new objectives and a summary of the evaluation in the second quarter of 2020.

Grantmaking

To date, the Foundation had awarded 68 grants to a total value of nearly £4 million. The vast majority of these grants have been awarded through open funding rounds.

In 2019, we focused our open round grantmaking on expert legal organisations that work within and alongside civil society. We know that expert legal organisations – those with specific and demonstrable legal expertise – play a key role in legal action that supports social change. Our grants aimed to support their ability to act as ‘hubs’ for legal action:

- offering expert legal advice that informs and drives social change; and
- collaborating on an agenda that builds and leverages networks of civil society organisations, supporting others to recognise when, where and how legal action can be an effective tool of social change to tackle discrimination and disadvantage.

These grants offer very flexible three-year project funding, allowing hub organisations to invest time in building relationships, to develop their strategies over time and to weather peaks and troughs of activity that are inevitable when using the law.

We were excited to receive 82 applications and awarded eight grants to a total value of nearly £800,000.



Campaigners at the Law and Social Change conference organised by the Sheila McKechnie Foundation in November.

Alongside our open round grantmaking, we continued to support our grantees as their work developed. With a number of projects coming to an end in 2019, we awarded a series of grants to allow organisations to extend their work, to fundraise for legal action and to document best practice.

As our programme focuses on all four nations of the UK, we also made a number of grants responsive to the developing context in different nations. This included a grant to the Public Law Project to support its ambition to increase access to judicial review in Wales.

Convening, research and learning

The SCS programme hosts an annual Grantee Learning Day, which brings together grantees, partners, external speakers, staff and trustees. The day was used to explore international examples of legal action, best practice from funded projects and to connect organisations from all parts of the UK doing great work in this field.

We also continued our formal collaboration with New Philanthropy Capital and Professor Lisa Vanhala and Dr Jacqui Kinghan at

University College London as learning partners for the programme. The partnership is intended to challenge the assumptions underpinning the programme, seek out and draw together emerging practice from our grants and scan the horizon for best practice at a domestic and international level.

In November 2019, we supported the Sheila McKechnie Foundation to host a one day conference on using the law for campaigning and social change. Over 120 campaigners attended the day and our partnership continues into 2020 with the publication of a *101 Guide to Using the Law for Social Change* and a series of blogs.

We also partnered with OpenDemocracy to publish *The Unlawful State* series that examines the impact of unlawful public decision making on vulnerable people and documents the role of legal action in protecting their rights and entitlements.

Our learning partners published *Using the law to address unfair systems*, a case study of the Personal Independence Payments legal challenge, and *Transforming lives through law*, ten examples of civil society organisations using the law for social change.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS



Affording equal support to kinship carers in Liverpool

KINSHIP CARERS LIVERPOOL

Over 180,000 children in the UK who can't live with their birth parents are growing up in kinship care with relatives or family friends. Kinship care often goes unrecognised, with carers struggling with financial, practical and emotional challenges. This includes by local authorities who may not give relatives parity of support with foster carers and adopters.

In 2016, Kinship Carers Liverpool, which offers various kinds of support to carers in the city, applied for a grant to enable them to draw on legal expertise to educate kinship carers about their rights and to work directly with the City Council to improve policies and services for these families.

This work has brought about significant change, with Liverpool Council now in the process of creating a Model of Work with the Voluntary Sector that works for kinship carers. It has also led to a shift in approach for the organisation which has increased its use of the law and rights-based approaches to support the families it works with and campaign on their behalf.



Challenging disability discrimination in the welfare system

INCLUSION LONDON

At the end of 2017, the Department for Work and Pensions was taken to court over changes to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) regulations which threatened to discriminate against people living with mental health conditions.

The claimant in the case – known as RF – was represented by lawyers at the Public Law Project and the case was supported by a number of charities, including Inclusion London.

The DWP lost, decided not to appeal and agreed to review entitlements for 1.6 million claimants of PIP, with a potential 164,000 people with mental health conditions likely to benefit.

Inclusion London is, along with others, continuing to work on this case to make sure new policy guidance reflects the court's decision.

Supporting this case was part of the work of the wider Disability Justice Project which works with Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations (DDPOs) in London to use the law to help secure and advance Disabled people's rights.

The Strengthening Civil Society programme is now five! Here are a few of the achievements of organisations funded by us since 2016 who have used the law to achieve social change.



Holding the state to account for violence against women and girls

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

The Foundation has provided seed and development funding for the Centre for Women's Justice which was established only four years ago in 2016.

The Centre has taken on several high-profile cases in this time with the potential to improve the treatment of many women who experience violence and abuse. It has launched a judicial review with the End Violence against Women Coalition against the Crown Prosecution Service for its failures to prosecute rape and is also bringing a legal challenge to the police practice of requiring a full digital download of rape victims' mobile phones. It has also submitted a police super-complaint on police failure to use bail and other protective measures in domestic abuse cases, and is now inputting into the current Home Office review of the bail regime.

The Centre's brings together specialist lawyers, academics, journalists and other experts in the field of violence against women with those working on the frontline as activists, survivors and service providers. Through creating this powerful network, it aims to undertake strategic law challenges, improve access to justice for victims, and raise public and policy-makers' awareness of the issues.



Changing the law for brothers and sisters in care

CLAN CHILDLAW

Children do not have a straightforward right to see their siblings when they are taken into care, or to be involved when decisions are made about their sibling's care. As a result there are many children who lose touch with one of the most important relationships in their lives.

Clan Childlaw have been campaigning, together with a coalition of other organisations called Stand up for Siblings, to change the law and practice so more siblings in care can stay together and if that's not possible then to have regular, quality time together.

The work has made significant progress. There is now a bill before the Scottish Parliament which would place a duty on local authorities to take steps to promote relationships and contact between brothers and sisters in care.

Clan have also pursued change through the courts and at the time of writing, are awaiting a judgment from the UK Supreme Court in the case of ABC, a 14-year-old, now 16, who wanted, but was unable, to have a say in decisions made about his little brother by Scottish Children's Hearings.

The issue has attracted significant coverage, including on a BBC Radio 4 documentary.

International Development

Empowering LGBTI communities in sub-Saharan Africa

This programme aims to support civil society organisations to address discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals and communities in sub-Saharan Africa. It focuses particularly on lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women and trans communities. We believe that discrimination against LGBTI communities violates basic human rights, but also hampers broader development. Tackling discrimination can lead to fairer, more just communities and allows for development that benefits all in society equally.

A central goal for the programme is to ensure our funding reaches locally based civil society organisations, enabling these organisations to determine their own strategies and structures, to collaborate and to make change.

We do this by supporting and developing the operations of local grantmakers that are rooted in LGBTI communities and involve activists in their decision making. For the first time in 2019, we also funded a number of established organisations in Southern Africa that are led by and for LBQ women and transgender communities.

We also aim to champion the work of our partners, developing the evidence base for the impact of local civil society and attracting further resources for a movement that remains severely underfunded.

Our grantmaking

2019 was the second year of our partnership with Initiative Sankofa d'Afrique de l'Ouest (ISDAO), a new LGBTI grantmaker working in nine West Africa countries (see page 20). As one of its first funders, we were pleased to renew our support for three years.

We also made a series of new grants in South Africa direct to civil society organisations that play a leadership role for LBQ and trans communities in the Southern Africa region. Our support is designed to diversify funding for important institutional players and to add to the field building work of our local partner The Other Foundation.

We have been supporting LGBTI communities in East Africa and Southern Africa since 2015 through long term partnerships with local grantmakers UHAI EASHRI and The Other Foundation. During 2019 we continued to support their operations and programmes, as well as funding their grantmaking to LBQ and trans civil society organisations.

Alongside our partnerships, we recognise the importance of creating opportunities for LGBTI LBQ and trans civil society to meet, to learn from each other and to create joint strategies. In 2019, we supported the Global LBQ Conference in Cape Town and the attendance of West African trans activists at the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa in Kigali.



The Women's Health and Rights Initiative (WHER) in Nigeria which promotes the well-being and equal rights of LBQ women. WHER is supported by ISDAO (see overleaf).

Global support for LGBTI movements

In the UK, we welcomed the announcement that the Government has become Co-Chair of the intergovernmental Equal Rights Coalition that protects the rights of LGBTI people. The new Government also made a manifesto commitment to host a Global LGBT Rights conference.

We continue to support the secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Global LGBT Rights – a forum for parliamentarians and organisations across the public, private and third sectors to work together to champion LGBT rights. Its founding Chair – Nick Herbert MP – stepped down at the 2019 election and Crispin Blunt MP was elected as the new Chair in 2020.

As part of our work to attract further resources for LGBTI civil society, we supported Give Out, a UK charity working to grow giving to support the global struggle for LGBTQI rights. We also renewed our funding to two individual giving

initiatives – the Grass Roots Giving programme at All Out and the UK LGBTI Individual Donor Initiative hosted at Global Dialogue.

Documenting the lived realities of LBQ and trans communities and the resources available to LGBTI civil society remains a key priority for the programme. We supported a groundbreaking new publication from the Human Dignity Trust – *Injustice exposed: the criminalisation of transgender people and its impacts*. We are also supporting the Astraea Foundation and Mama Cash to conduct research on the global funding landscape for LBQ civil society, which will be published in 2020.

We remain an active member of the Global Philanthropy Project, a collaboration of funders working to expand global philanthropic support to advance the human rights of LGBTI people in the Global South and East.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHT

Supporting the rights of LBQ and trans women in West Africa

WITH THE INITIATIVE SANKOFA D'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (ISDAO)

ISDAO is an activist-led, local grantmaker supporting LGBTQI people in nine countries in West Africa, in both French and English speaking countries.

The Foundation is one of ISDAO's first funders, providing an initial grant in 2018 to support the establishment of the organisation and a subsequent three-year grant in 2019.

The environment for LGBTI people in West Africa is often hostile and violent, and underpinned by state-sponsored homophobia and discriminatory legislation. For LGBTI people living in this environment, civil society organisations provide safe spaces and often a family. However, the space for civil society organising is restricted and the work of activists can be challenging.

“What excites me about ISDAO is that we are challenging the status quo on philanthropy and LGBTQI organizing in West Africa – not only through grantmaking to address the challenges, but in investing in the leadership and expertise of activists to create new possibilities and realities for queer, trans and intersex people in our region.”

B. Caroline Kouassiaman,
Executive Director of ISDAO

In 2019, ISDAO made its first grants – awarding 27 grants in seven countries. Over 50% of funding went to French-speaking countries and 50% of all grants to initiatives led by LBQ women and transgender people. Grants were made to organisations in, for example:

BENIN

For a Rainbow Club, the first of its kind, bringing together young people aged 15 to 24 to learn and share about LGBT rights. They launched a social media campaign together in Benin to spread messages of equality and unity.

BURKINO FASO

For a project to inform LGBTQ people about their rights and the national legal system and to share knowledge about ensuring their personal and community safety.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

To undertake a national mapping and research on the realities and needs of trans people across five key zones of the country. This will be the first research project in the country that is being led and undertaken by trans women, and which looks at issues and concerns beyond HIV and AIDS.

TOGO

To raise awareness through campaigns and conversation with key stakeholders and create safe spaces for LGBTI people through community events.



As well as providing and leveraging new funding to LGBTI groups, ISDAO acts as a capacity builder for civil society across the region and is already playing an important role in creating more space and visibility for West African activists in regional and global conversations. It has, for example, provided strategic funding to enable greater participation of West African activists at global and regional meetings, particularly activists from Francophone countries. In 2019, it also contributed as the only West African organisation to a consultation by the UN Development Programme on developing a Sub-Saharan African LGBTI regional initiative.



Above: an ISDAO workshop.
Right: ISDAO staff members at the Miss and Mr. G ceremony and awards, an annual community event run by the Club des 7 Jours in Togo.

Our trustees and staff

Board of Trustees

Janet Morrison OBE, *Chair of the Board*

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Sam Thorne (*Appointed September 2018*)

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Karen Allen, *International Development Committee*

Devinda De Silva, *Arts Committee*

RESIGNED IN 2019

Emma Badman

Office staff

Barbara Allerhand, *Finance Officer*

Ann Blyth-Tancock, *Administration Officer*

David Cutler, *Director*

Harriet Lowe, *Communications and Research Officer*

David Sampson, *Deputy Director*

Rowena Teall, *Programmes Officer (until May 2019)*

Jannat Hossain, *Programmes Officer (from August 2019)*

Grants awarded in 2019

Arts

GRANTEE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
National Activity Providers Association	£40,000	To support NAPA to run an Annual National Day of Arts in Care Homes.
Big Difference Company	£20,040	To run an older people's fringe to the Leicester Comedy Festival in 2020 and 2021.
FACT (Foundation for Art & Creative Technology)	£12,155	To deliver, in conjunction with 64 Million Artists, a one day conference on digital arts and creative ageing.
Manchester Museum	£250,000	To set up and run a sector support body for creative ageing in England.
Entelechy Arts Limited	£6,000	To make a contribution towards the Symposium: Creative Ageing and the City - London, Manchester and Tokyo.
Paintings in Hospitals	£19,750	For a visual arts in care homes project.
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	£150,000	As a contribution towards an Arts and Dementia Fund.
Southbank Centre	£10,000	For the development costs of a pilot project called (B)old Visions of participative visual art for people living with dementia and their carers.
Foundation for Community Dance	£4,000	To support the costs of a symposium on the Dance for Parkinson's initiative.
Spare Tyre	£5,000	To run a project on the engagement of Asian people in arts and dementia projects.
Luminate	£120,000	To support core costs.
Age Cymru	£125,000	To run cARTrefu, match funding Arts Council Wales.
National Activity Providers Association	£10,000	To run a pilot year of the National Arts in Care Homes day, match funding the Rayne Foundation.

Strengthening Civil Society

GRANTEE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Redress Trust	£465	For additional activities relating to their Baring-funded project to create and deliver training packages and practical information to guide and support front-line community organisations on human rights law applicable to migrants and refugees.
Women's Equality Network (WEN) Wales	£4,540	For additional activities related to their Baring-funded project to upskill the third sector, politicians and their organisational and individual membership to raise awareness of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in Wales.
Unlock National Association Of Ex-Offenders Limited	£28,000	To allow Unlock to support the implementation of changes to the criminal record disclosure regime so that people no longer need to unnecessarily reveal old and minor criminal records.
Maternity Action	£18,600	To support the Migrant Women's Rights Service.
Inclusion London	£23,040	To support the Disability Justice Project.
Public Law Project	£150,000	To support the Public Law Project's ambitions to increase access to judicial review in Wales.
Sheila McKechnie Foundation	£41,816	To produce a one day conference on the Law and Social Change.
openDemocracy Limited	£11,095	For an editorial partnership to investigate and report on unlawful public decision-making and how civil society is seeking to address it.
University of Liverpool	£1,120	To undertake further research on the Kinship Counts! project with Kinship Carers.
Just for Kids Law	£30,000	To support work relating to a previous grant to the organisation to ensure the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child are fully utilised as an advocacy tool by voluntary sector organisations.
Islington Law Centre	£90,000.00	To support civil society organisations to understand the role of, and undertake, strategic legal action to protect and promote migrants' rights.
Royal Mencap Society	£100,000.00	To assist people with learning difficulties to use data and strategic legal tactics to hold public bodies to account and bring about systems change.
Coram Children's Legal Centre	£99,994	To support activists and organisations to assist migrant and refugee children in accessing secure legal status.

GRANTEE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
North East Law Centre	£97,031	To develop a partnership between the North East Law Centre and the Recovery College Collective to test how legal and human rights based approaches could improve the outcomes for people experiencing mental distress.
JustRight Scotland	£99,000	To establish the Scottish Interest Law Centre, which aims to ensure that the law and human rights based approaches are seen as tools for social change.
National AIDS Trust	£99,000	To help reduce HIV stigma by using up to date knowledge of HIV to ensure the correct application of the law.
Anti Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit	£99,000	To empower organisations supporting victims of trafficking to use the law to ensure victims are identified and receive the support they are entitled to.
Public Interest Law Centre	£99,543	To defend, enforce and promote the housing rights of Domestic Violence survivors through free legal representation, capacity-strengthening of the voluntary sector and strategic litigation.

International Development

GRANTEE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Initiative Sankofa d'Afrique de l'Ouest	£10,000	To enable ISDAO to support the attendance of West African trans activists at the International Conference of AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) taking place in Kigali in December 2019.
GiveOut	£40,000	To support core costs.
Initiative Sankofa d'Afrique de l'Ouest	£300,000	To support the operations of Initiative Sankofa D'Afrique de l'Ouest.
Global Philanthropy Project	£30,000	To support the Global Philanthropy Project.
Federatie COC Nederland	£25,000	To support the Global Feminist LBQ Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.
Forum for the Empowerment of Women	£10,000	Core costs support.
Gender DynamiX	£40,000	Core costs support.
Iranti-Org	£40,000	Core costs support.
Social, Health and Empowerment Feminist Collective	£25,000	Core costs support.

Other

GRANTEE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
St. Michael's Fellowship**	£5,000	Core funding towards work with vulnerable families, including very young parents, in residential family assessment centres and in the community.
Mylor Bridge Primary School*	£5,000	To run a Forest School project in Cornwall (Enys).
St. Michael's Fellowship*	£5,000	Core funding towards work with vulnerable families, including very young parents, in residential family assessment centres and in the community.

* Trustees Fund

** Contingency Fund

New resources in 2019

Arts



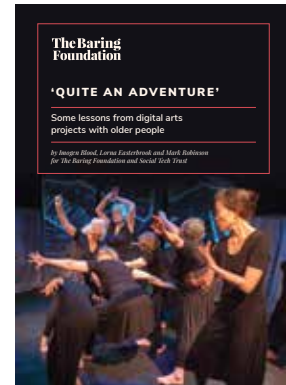
Treasury of arts activities for older people
Liz Postlethwaite



From Bingo to Bartok
Orchestras Live



Around the world in 80 creative ageing projects
David Cutler



'Quite an adventure': some lessons from digital arts projects with older people
Imogen Blood, Lorna Easterbrook and Mark Robinson



Art and dementia in the UK South Asian Diaspora
Elizabeth Lynch with Spare Tyre

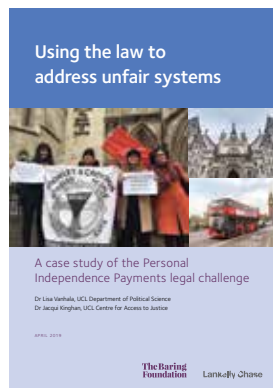


Older and wiser: creative ageing in the UK 2010-19
Rebecca Gordon-Nesbitt, King's College London

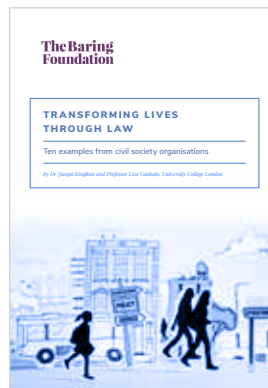
Strengthening Civil Society



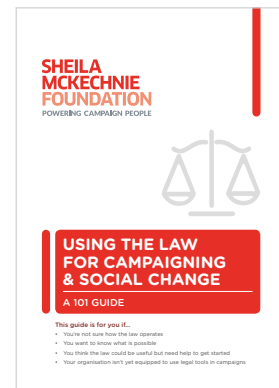
Overcoming barriers to public interest litigation in Scotland
Clan Childlaw



Using the law to address unfair systems
Prof. Lisa Vanhala and Dr Jacqui Kingham, UCL



Transforming lives through law
Prof. Lisa Vanhala and Dr Jacqui Kingham, UCL



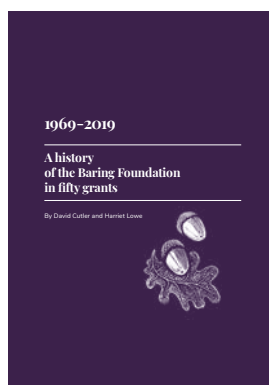
Using the law for campaigning & social change: a 101 guide
Sheila McKechnie Foundation

International Development



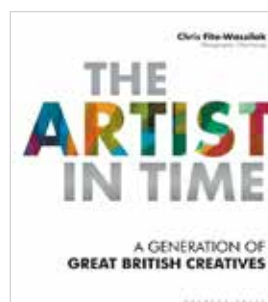
Injustice exposed: the criminalisation of transgender people and its impacts
Human Dignity Trust

Other

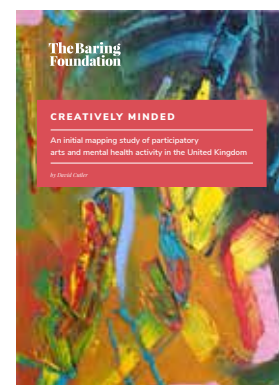


A history of the Baring Foundation in 50 grants
David Cutler and Harriet Lowe

2020 (Arts)



The Artist in Time
Chris Fite-Wassilak and Ollie Harrop



Creatively Minded: An initial mapping study of participatory arts and mental health activity in the United Kingdom
David Cutler



Keep in touch with us

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Sign up to our e-newsletters

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All photos by Iona Wolff.



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