

Humanists

INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Humanists
INTERNATIONAL



“ The overall theme of the year can be summarised in one word: **growth.**”

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We will have successful and sustainable member organisations in every part of the world _____ 06

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2017 was a busy year for Humanists International. The overall theme of the year can be summarised in one word: growth.

This year has seen our increased number of professional staff become a strong working team, which the Board is happy to see develop and grow. I would like to take this chance, on behalf of the Board, to thank the staff for their hard work over the course of the year.

2017 saw the successful implementation of the Board's growth and development strategy, along with new policies to ensure global diversity within our own Board, meaning that Humanists International is now becoming a truly global and representative organization.

In 2017 the Board also reviewed and updated our strategy. We succeeded in simplifying the language and enhancing the focus on key issues of importance to the global humanist family. You can read about these important changes at iheu.org/strategy. This report outlines the incredible work of our organization in the last year, from doubling the

number of Member Organizations in Latin America, launching our first ever crowdfunding campaign (which raised over £10,000) and continuing our groundbreaking work with the United Nations institutions to protect and promote the rights of humanists.

Once again, thank you to our members and supporters. We cannot do it without you.

Andrew Copson
President



I am delighted to share this 2017 edition of our Annual Report with you.

2017 was a busy year packed with exciting new activities, and characterised by strong growth of humanism in our priority regions of Latin America, Africa and Asia.

This planned and structured growth is borne of innovative renewed engagement with our Member Organizations and supporters around the world.

In particular I would like to thank David Pollock, who is stepping down as the head of our delegation

“2017 was a busy year characterised by strong growth of humanism in our priority regions of Latin America, Africa and Asia.”

to the Council of Europe. David has served the international humanist community for many years with great distinction.

This is also the first Annual Report that features our new trading name of Humanists International, and our exciting new branding. Our new branding combines a respect for the universal symbolism of Humanism, the 'Happy Human', with a bold and energetic new style.

Thank you again for your support.

Gary McLelland
Chief Executive

Since 1952 Humanists International has been the global representative body of the humanist movement, uniting a diversity of non-religious organizations and individuals.

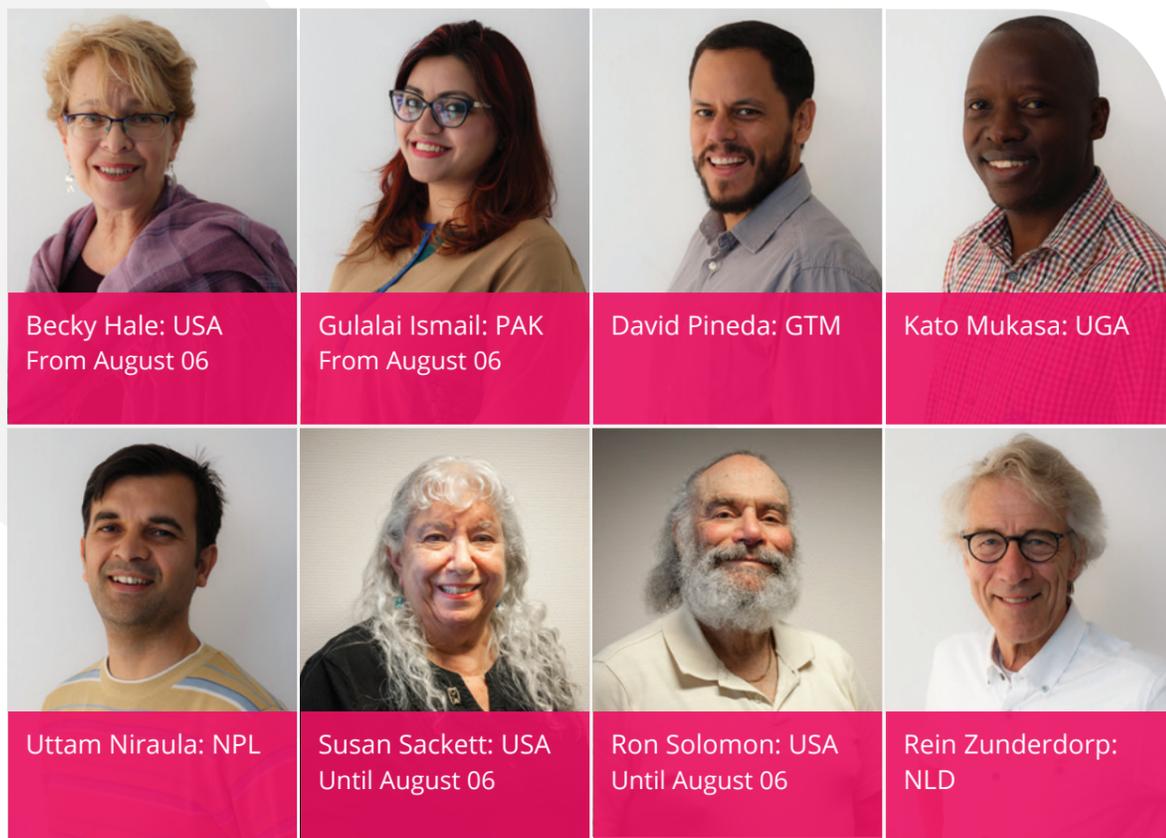
We want everyone to live a life of dignity in a world where universal human rights are respected and protected, and where states uphold secularism.

We work to build, support and represent the global humanist movement, defending human rights, particularly those of non-religious people, and promoting humanist values worldwide.

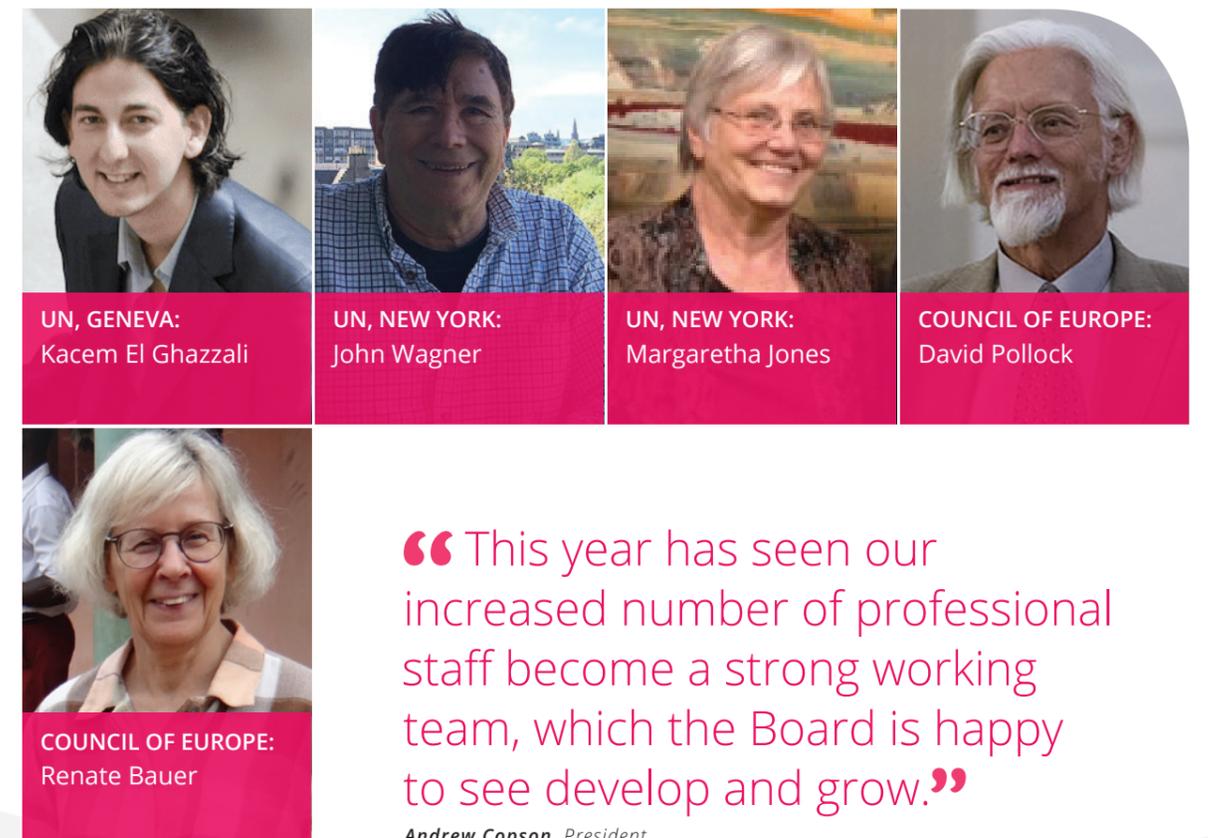
Board Members



Staff



Volunteers



“ This year has seen our increased number of professional staff become a strong working team, which the Board is happy to see develop and grow.”

Andrew Copson, President

We will have successful and sustainable member organisations in every part of the world

Growth and Development: A new focus

2017 has seen the implementation of our growth and development plan, and the creation of a new dedicated staff position to support this, the Growth and Development Officer. The goal of this plan is to foster the presence of humanism in our priority regions such as Latin America, Africa, and Asia, as well as supporting our existing Member Organizations in their development. At the same time, this helps to ensure the long-term sustainability of Humanists International.

Thanks to the work carried out in 2017, Humanists International now has 148 Member Organisations in 55 countries.

In 2017, the growth and development programme contained several new initiatives. The majority of these have been dedicated to our 2017 priority region: Latin America. Throughout the year Humanists International offered financial and logistical support to well-established Latin American organizations so that they could act as a "Humanist Hub" for their neighbouring humanist friends, aiming to develop a "cluster approach" for supporting activity in the region.

Doubled membership in Latin America

This approach returned immediate results. In just one year Humanists International doubled its membership in Latin America: from eight Member Organizations in seven countries to fifteen Member Organizations in ten countries. In particular we have welcomed into our family the following Latin American organizations:

- Urban House Suriname
- Freethinkers Association of Arequipa, Asociación de Librepensadores de Arequipa (Peru)
- Secular Humanist Society of Peru, Sociedad Secular Humanista del Perú
- Atheist Bogotá, Bogotá Atea (Colombia)
- Secular Humanist Association UPRM (Puerto Rico)
- Humanists Mexico, Humanistas México
- Secular Action, Acción Secular (Chile)

State of membership: An overview

At the end of 2017, Humanists International's ratified membership was:

34 Full Member Organisations

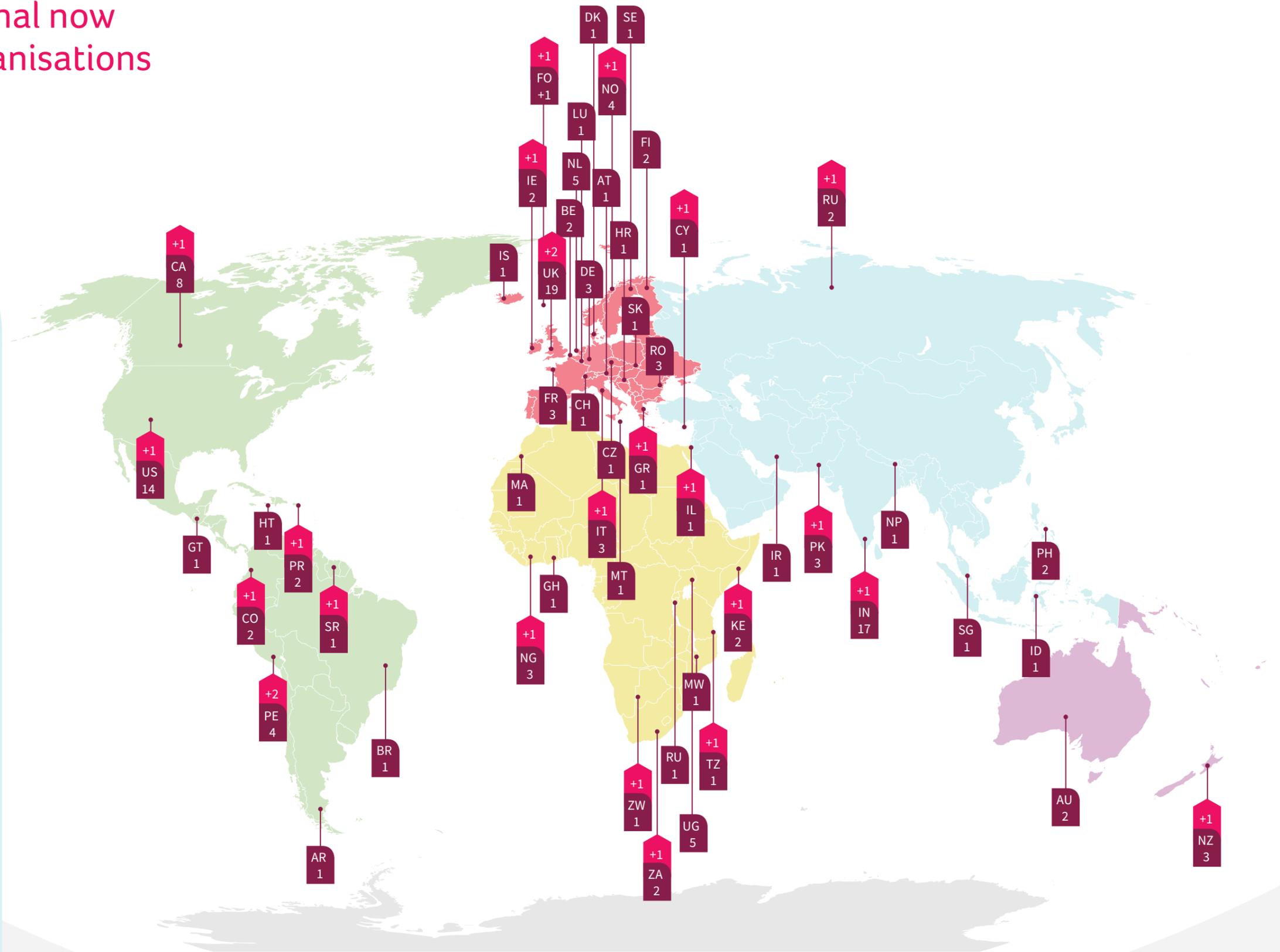
08 Specialist Member Organisations

106 Associate Member Organisations

Humanists International now has 148 Member Organisations in 55 countries.

New members in 2017:

- Atheist in Kenya
- Atheist Ireland
- Atheist Society of Nigeria
- Bogotà Atea
- Brighter Brains Institute
- Cyprus Humanist Association
- Faroese Humanist Association
- Freethinkers Association of Arequipa
- Friends of Richard Dawkins Association
- Greater Manchester Humanists
- Halton-Peel Humanist Community
- Humanist magazine
- Humanist Society of Pakistan
- Humanist Union of Greece
- International Institute for Development Facilitation
- Iranian Humanist
- Jicho Jipya - Think Anew
- Libero Pensiero
- Pacific Islands Secular Association
- Scottish Secular Society
- Secular Humanist Association UPRM
- Secular Humanist Society of Peru
- South Asian Humanist Association
- The Brights cluster in Russia
- Urban House Suriname



We will create a coordinated global movement by supporting and developing our network



Participants in a Café Humaniste Event, Uganda

Café Humaniste in 2017

One of the biggest areas of new work under the growth and development plan was the development and launch of Café Humaniste. Café Humaniste is an event series bringing people together in person to discuss questions of interest and concern to humanists, and is designed to promote Humanism in new areas, or to support the growth of new humanist groups.

The events are organized in collaboration with local Humanists International Member Organizations in countries all over the world, with Humanists International providing financial and media support.

In the second half of 2017 we organized a total of 5 Café Humaniste events, in Italy, Guatemala, Peru, and Colombia, with an astonishing participation from the public. Looking ahead to the first half of 2018 we are organizing 8 Café Humaniste, focusing this time on our new priority region: Africa.

¿Qué Pasa, Humanista?

One of our new initiatives dedicated to Latin America was the creation of a new web format called "¿Qué pasa, Humanista?" ("What's up, Humanist?"). This online series brought together humanists in Latin America, often for the first time, to talk about issues unique to the region.

During the first two episodes, leading humanists from the region discussed the situation of

humanism and secularism in their countries, the challenges they face and the work they are doing. The launch of the format was a huge success: the pilot episode was watched live by 5,200 people in Latin America and reached a total of 52,908 people. In 2018 we plan to review and adapt the format to make it more flexible and easier to be repeated in further regions of the world.

Café Humaniste events held in 2017:

16 JUN - MILAN (ITALY):

- What we talk about when we talk about vaccination?

8 JUL - GUATEMALA CITY (GUATEMALA):

- Mind games. Illusionism and beliefs

13 NOV - GUATEMALA CITY (GUATEMALA):

- Power games. Religion and politics

21 NOV - LIMA (PERU):

- Is morality a divine gift or the product of evolution?

2 DEC - BOGOTÀ (COLOMBIA):

- What's secularism? The separation of Church and State in Colombia and Latin American countries

Humanist Regional Hub grants awarded

In August 2017 we launched a new program for Humanist Regional Hub grants to be awarded for work in capacity-building and the promotion of humanism.

By the end of the year we had awarded 7 grants for a total of £6,000 to support projects and events promoting humanism and the work of humanist organizations.

Humanist Hub grants awarded in 2017:

<p>£3,000 TO HUMANISTS GUATEMALA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to support the organisation of a Latin American Humanist Conference in early 2019 	<p>£500 TO THE RUSSIAN CLUSTER OF THE BRIGHTS MOVEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for the translation into English of their Report on Secularism and Freedom of Expression in Russia
<p>4 TRAVEL GRANTS OF £400 EACH TO HUMANISTS INTERNATIONAL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in order to help them attend the first Latin American Freethinkers conference that took place in Arequipa, Peru on 4-26 May 2018 	<p>£900 TO THE ATHEIST SOCIETY OF NIGERIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to help twenty university students from different areas of Nigeria to attend ASN National Convention "Road to Reason" held on 11 November 2017

Travel Grants awarded 2017: Humanists International awarded 7 Travel Grants for a total of £5,200 to Member Organisations in order to help their representatives attend the 2017 Humanists International General Assembly in London, United Kingdom, on 6 August 2017.

£5,200 IN TRAVEL GRANTS AWARDED

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secular Humanists of Puerto Rico Humanist Society of Pakistan Atheist Bogotá, Bogotá Atea (Colombia) Social Development Foundation (India) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atheist & Agnostic Alliance Pakistan Urban House Suriname Free Society Institute (South Africa)
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Four of our newest Board members: Uttam Niraula (Nepal), David Pineda (Guatemala), Kato Mukasa (Uganda) and Gulalai Ismail (Pakistan)

A connected, social, global community

Email remains an extremely important communications tool between Humanists International and our Member Organizations and supporters, with a monthly newsletter and occasional updates keeping the community of organized Humanism in touch with our work and each other.

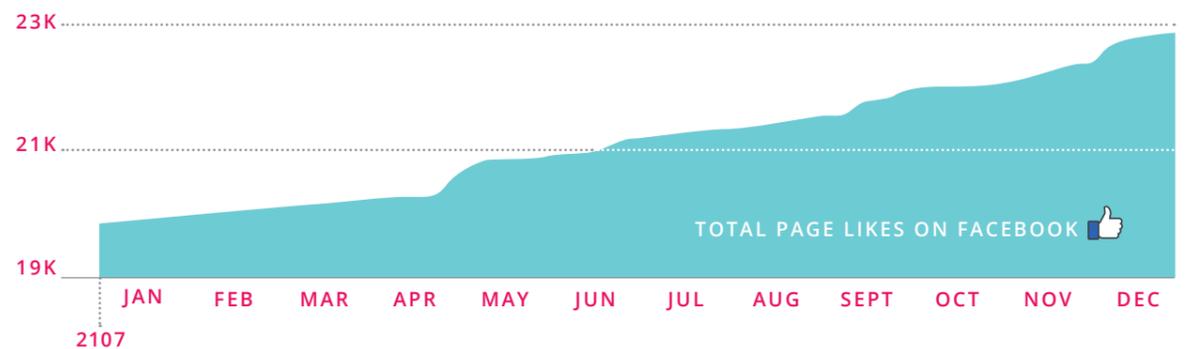
In 2017 we conducted a database cleansing operation and were able to restore around 8,000 individual email subscribers, greatly expanding our mailing list for the Supporter newsletter.

We also leveraged the Supporter mailing list in our crowdfunding campaign and our Members newsletter list to consult with Member Organizations on our brand positioning as part of our re-branding process ahead of the name change in 2018.

The importance of social media for reaching ordinary humanists and gaining traffic for our website continues to increase. Nearly a third of all website traffic to iheu.org in 2017 came from social sources - the vast majority of which is Facebook and Twitter, where we focus our efforts.

In 2017 we employed new social media strategies including the production of more video and more targeted posts, which has produced both significant spikes in new followers and our reach in new regions and languages.

Just over half of all visits to our website are via mobile or tablet. So as we look ahead to 2018 we'll ensure that a responsive, mobile-friendly design is built into the next iteration of our website, to accompany our new branding as "Humanists International".



We saw steady growth on our Facebook page through 2017 with a number of sharp increases associated with new initiatives.

We don't need to be **threatened by heaven or hell** to be good to each other. Maybe you can do good when you are being threatened, but then **are you really being moral at all?**



Part of a Humanist Prism meme, featuring **Violine Namyalo** from Uganda

Membership resources for a global audience

The growth and development plan for 2017 also included the creation of new resources that support the needs of humanists all over the world.

These resources include the publication of the “How to start a Humanist organization” guide, created with input and advice from our Member Organizations. This guide is only the first of a 4-part resource with information, ideas and best practice for humanist organizations of all levels. In 2018 we will publish the second and the third parts of the resource, on “How to run a Humanist Organization” and “How to organize a Humanist event”.

With the collaboration of our Member Organizations we have also made available the Amsterdam Declaration 2002 in 25 languages, compared with the 9 versions available at the beginning of 2017. New languages include: Armenian, Catalan, Hebrew, Italian, Irish, Persian, Sinhalese, Swahili, Swedish.

In 2018 we will create a “Humanist resources” page on our website where we will collect different kinds of resources (books, articles, films, etc) dealing with themes of concern to humanists - science, philosophy, secularism, etc.

Humanist Prism

In August 2017 we launched the Humanist Prism series, a collection of thought-provoking quotes from past and present protagonists of the worldwide humanist movement. The series includes notable personalities within Humanists International, representatives of Humanists International Member Organizations, humanist activists and thinkers.

The goal of the series is to exhibit the various views and diversity of the international humanist family, demonstrating the positive outlook of Humanism.

By the end of the year we published 21 quotes, with a rate of one quote per week.



New affiliation category

In 2017 we started to develop a new affiliation category for online partners and for informal groups in order to diversify the levels of participation to Humanists International. This new affiliation category will be officially launched in late 2018, after the completion of the rebranding process.

The Amsterdam Declaration on Humanism is now available on the IHEU website in 25 languages! Here are the seven principles of modern Humanism as defined in the Amsterdam Declaration, in a selection of world languages.

1. 人文主義重視道德，人文主義認同個人的價值、尊嚴和自主，每個人都有權在不侵犯他人權利下享有最大的自由。人文主義者對全體人類負有責任，包含未來的世代。人文主義者相信道德是人類天性的一部分，它來自對他人的理解和關懷，不須外在誘因驅使。

2. **L'Humanisme est rationnel.** Il tente d'utiliser la science d'une façon créative et non destructive. Les humanistes croient que les solutions aux problèmes mondiaux se trouvent dans la pensée et l'action humaines plutôt que dans l'intervention divine. L'Humanisme soutient l'application de la méthode scientifique et de la libre-pensée aux problèmes concernant le bien-être humain. Cependant, les humanistes pensent que l'application de la science et de la technologie doit être tempérée par les valeurs humaines. La science nous donne les moyens mais c'est aux valeurs humaines de nous donner les fins.

הומניזם תומך בדמוקרטיה ובזכויות אדם. הומניזם שואף לפיתוח המלא ביותר האפשרי של כל אדם ואדם. הוא מצהיר כי דמוקרטיה והתפתחות אנושית הן זכות אנושית. את עקרונות הדמוקרטיה וזכויות אדם ניתן ליישם במגוון מערכות יחסים בין אנשים, וללא הגבלה לשיטות הממשל בלבד.

4. Humanism insists that personal liberty must be combined with social responsibility. Humanism ventures to build a world on the idea of the free person responsible to society, and recognises our dependence on and responsibility for the natural world. Humanism is undogmatic, imposing no creed upon its adherents. It is thus committed to education free from indoctrination.

5. Ubinadamu ni jibu kwa hitaji lililoenea la kutaka kuwepo na mbadala wa mafundisho ya imani za dini, yasiyokubali mabadiliko kwa ukweli mpya wala udadisi wa kuuliza maswali. Dini kubwa duniani zinadai zinaongozwa na maono yaliyosimikwa ukweli kwa wakati wote, na nyingi zinataka kushinikiza mitazamo yao kwa binadamu wote popote. Ubinadamu yenyewe inatambua kuwa Elimu – Ufahamu wa uhakika juu ya dunia na juu yetu sisi binadamu inatokana na kuendelea kwetu bila kikomo na zoezi lisilokwisha la mchakato wa kusaili – yaani kuangalia kiuchunguzi, kupima, na kuangalia tena kwa marudio (kwa jicho jipya) yale ya kabla.

تَقَدَّرَ الأُنْسَانِيَّةُ الإِبْدَاعَ الفَيِّ والخيال وتدرك قوة الفن على التغيير. كما تُوَكِّد على أهمية الأدب والموسيقى والفنون البصرية والتمثيلية لتنمية النفس وتحقيق الذات

7. O humanismo é uma postura de vida com meta na máxima plenitude possível através do cultivo de um viver ético e criativo e oferece meios éticos e racionais de atentar-se para os desafios de nossos tempos. O humanismo pode ser um modo de vida para todos em todo lugar.

We will influence and shape international and regional government policies



Headlines on Advocacy:

- **24 statements** made at UN Human Rights Council
- **We were the only humanists on three key UN Processes promoting FoRB, Free Expression and Tolerance:** Rabat Plan of Action; Fez Process and Faith 4 Rights Initiative
- **Co-ordinated statement by Ensaf Haidar** on Raif Badawi's behalf
- **Three oral statements made** at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
- **We had two UN Special Rapporteurs** speak at the conference in the UK held alongside our GA, and Ahmed Shaheed also gave a keynote at our GA.
- **We coordinated a statement** delivered on behalf of over 15 organizations which raised concerns about the UN resolution on Protection of the Family.
- **Participated in a UN consultation** on the death penalty which led to a UN resolution specifically condemning the use of the death penalty in cases of apostasy, blasphemy, (as well as same-sex sexual relations and adultery).

Advocacy...at the United Nations

As in previous years, Humanists International's advocacy work has concentrated on the UN Human Rights Council, but this year it has expanded to engaging with broader UN initiatives as well as establishing Humanists International engagement with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. This is in addition to continuing our presence at other bodies such as the Council of Europe and UNESCO.

Humanists International attended the three sessions of the UN Human Rights Council that met in 2017; during which we continued to lobby on relevant resolutions, meet with decision makers and raise human rights cases of concern. We also made 24 statements (in oral and written form). Issues raised included: Cases of persecuted humanists, secularists and freethinkers; harmful traditional practices; the right to free artistic expression and scientific enquiry; freedom of religion or belief; LGBTI rights; the role of anti-choice actors; blasphemy and apostasy laws; arbitrary detention; Hindu nationalism and caste discrimination in India; child sacrifice in Uganda and maternal mortality. During the March session, we organized an event on "Blasphemy laws in the Digital Age", in which we brought together the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, academic Ms Joelle Fiss, Alber Saber, an Egyptian computer science student and blogger who was forced to escape Egypt in 2012 over allegations of

sharing a video considered "insulting to Islam," Azam Khan, a Bangladeshi blogger and activist who was forced to leave his home country due to being named as a target by Islamists, and Kacem El Ghazzali, Moroccan writer, activist and Humanists International representative who received death threats and fled his home country over his public atheism.

The Director of Communications and Campaigns participated in a UN consultation on the death penalty which led to a UN resolution specifically condemning the use of the death penalty in cases of apostasy, blasphemy, same-sex sexual relations and adultery.

“ I thank the @IHEU and @elizabethocasey for delivering @miss9afi statement at the UN Human Rights Council!”

Raif Badawi, on Twitter.

The Director of Advocacy spoke on two UN panels; one at a seminal workshop on human rights abuses in relation to accusations of witchcraft; the other at an event hosted by the EU delegation to the UN in Geneva on Freedom of Religion or Belief with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Humanists International has maintained its presence at the UN in New York, with a place on the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief and on the NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child. Humanists International was represented at the Commission on the Status of Women and the Director of Advocacy attended the Third Committee and met with three Special Rapporteurs whilst in New York. Humanists International continues to be represented on the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief in Geneva via the Director of Advocacy's position as Vice Chair.



2017 was a year that saw Humanists International engage with three key UN initiatives working to promote freedom of religion or belief, free expression and tolerance. In April, the Director of Advocacy was invited to Beirut to participate in the UN 'Faith for Rights' Initiative and draft the Beirut Declaration; in November she went to Bangkok to participate in a meeting on the UN 'Fez Plan of Action' where she engaged with representatives from South Asia, including government ministers from Bangladesh; and in December she travelled to Rabat to participate in the 'Rabat+5' meeting on the Rabat plan of Action. Humanists International's work in relation to the Rabat Plan of Action and Faith for Rights Initiative is featured in a link on the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights website. We were the only humanist/ secularist group represented at these meetings.

Advocacy...at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

This year saw the start of an engagement by Humanists International with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), an inter-governmental organization whose participating states include the USA, Canada, European and Central Asian States. Our Director of Advocacy attended the OSCE's human rights themed conference in Warsaw and made three statements. From this, she was then invited to Vienna by the UK delegation to brief OSCE participating states at the OSCE Human Rights committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief and anti-extremism.

Advocacy...at the Council of Europe

The Director of Advocacy also joined Humanists International delegation at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg for the meeting of NGOs and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. They continued to work with other progressive NGOs to counter conservative initiatives there and feed into reports of relevant committees. Humanists International was also represented at the Council of Europe annual Intercultural dialogue meeting.



UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ahmed Shaheed, spoke at our 2017 General Assembly and has provided a foreword to the Freedom of Thought Report

“ Great blog by @elizabethocasey! Great work by @IHEU at #HRC37! Without the human right to freedom of religion or belief there really would be no space for any of the other rights.”

Ahmed Shaheed, on Twitter



Working Together & Looking Ahead

We have continued to work with members and humanist individuals to make interventions at the United Nations. This year, these included: Atheist & Agnostic Alliance Pakistan, Narendra Nayak and Vidya Bhushan Rawat (India), Filipino Freethinkers (Philippines), Atheist Republic, Humanist Association for Leadership, Equity and Accountability (Uganda), HIVOS, and Ambedkar Centre for Justice and Peace (India).

We have also continued to make joint statements at the UN with other prominent NGOs promoting progressive values and human rights. These included: Pen International, Raif Badawi Foundation, Reporters without Borders, Jimmy Wales Foundation, International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), Association for Women's Rights in Development, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Sexual Rights Initiative, Action Canada Action for Sexual Health and Rights and Muslims for Progressive Values, and Center for Reproductive Rights.

The Director of Advocacy attended meetings on Freedom of Religion or Belief in the European Parliament and on sexual and reproductive health and rights in EU institutions. She attended a two-day workshop and conference, the European Forum, with Navi Pillay, and private briefings with State representatives at the UN in Geneva and New York on anti-choice actors and on the promotion of Freedom of Religion or belief and expression. She spoke at a conference organized by Cumberland Lodge in the UK and travelled to Madrid to collect a prize for freedom of expression as part of the Committed Optimists Awards, on behalf of Raif Badawi. Whilst there she also gave an interview to Spanish National Radio.

In 2018, we are looking to expand our advocacy activities further by re-engaging with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and better working with the European Union's External Action Service's human rights work around the world.



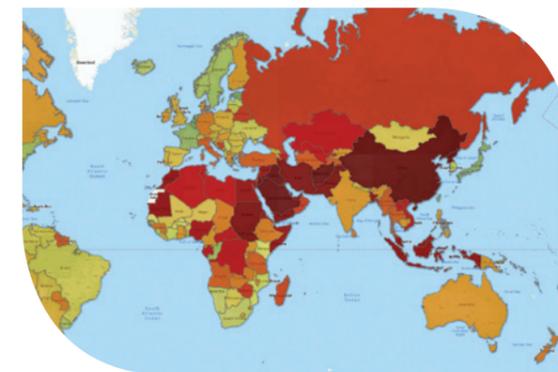
Director of Communications and Campaigns, **Bob Churchill**, speaks with **Denis de Jong** MEP and **Prithu Sanyal**, a blogger from Bangladesh.

Freedom of Thought Report

We launched a sixth annual edition of the Freedom of Thought Report in 2017, with a new design and a new approach: putting the website and social media first. This built on our efforts in 2016 to develop the Online Edition of the report, which includes a dedicated webpage for each country on the planet.

The Report was launched at the European Parliament in Brussels, with parallel events also held by Member Organizations in Norway, Netherlands, Denmark and elsewhere.

The Report was sent to key experts, lawmakers and other international NGOs in the field of freedom of religion or belief, free expression and human rights more generally.



“It is in everyone’s interest (religious, non-religious, anyone) that we shine a powerful light on the spectre of atheism. Shine a light, and the shadow will lift! And we will find that there is no spectre. Only a human being.”



Ensaf Haidar, in the foreword to the 2017 edition of the Freedom of Thought Report

We will have sufficient reputation, resources, and effectiveness to achieve our objectives

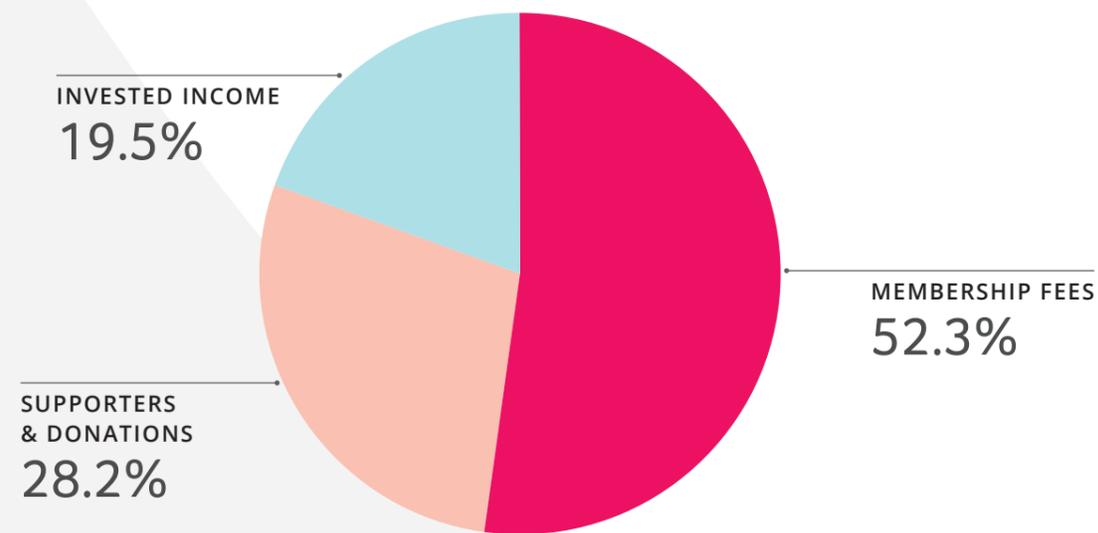
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2017

	FUNDS 2017				FUNDS 2016
	£ UNRESTRICTED	£ RESTRICTED	£ ENDOWMENT	£ TOTAL	£ TOTAL
INCOME					
Membership fees	108,078	-	-	108,078	107,846
Supporters and donations	39,132	18,998	-	58,130	499,473
Investment income	1,750	-	38,500	40,250	39,698
Total income	148,960	18,998	38,500	206,458	647,017
EXPENDITURE					
Wages and social security	127,673	-	-	127,673	124,316
General assembly expenses	8,725	-	-	8,725	3,951
Travel aid board members	-	23,391	-	23,391	3,071
Office expenses	21,225	-	-	21,225	17,265
IHEYO	2,004	8,501	-	10,505	-
IT and website costs	1,933	76,000	-	77,933	3,328
Consultancy costs	33,227	-	-	33,227	11,932
Growth and development	-	3,414	-	3,414	533
Travel and representation	31,880	-	-	31,880	17,206
Other costs	25,123	6,100	21,041	52,264	48,380
Total expenditure	251,790	117,406	21,041	390,237	229,982
NET (DEFICIT)/INCOME BEFORE TRANSFERS, EXCHANGE AND INVESTMENT	(102,830)	(98,408)	17,459	(183,779)	417,035
gains or losses					
Exchange (losses)/gains	(93,741)	-	(147,435)	(241,176)	410,512
Gains on investments	-	-	211,374	211,374	70,897
Transfers between funds	95,000	(20,000)	(75,000)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(101,571)	(118,408)	6,398	(213,581)	898,444
BALANCE AT 1 JANUARY 2017	331,204	442,365	2,105,426	2,878,995	1,980,551
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2017	229,633	323,957	2,111,824	2,665,414	2,878,995

This financial summary has been extracted from the company's audited statutory accounts. Full details are available on our website.

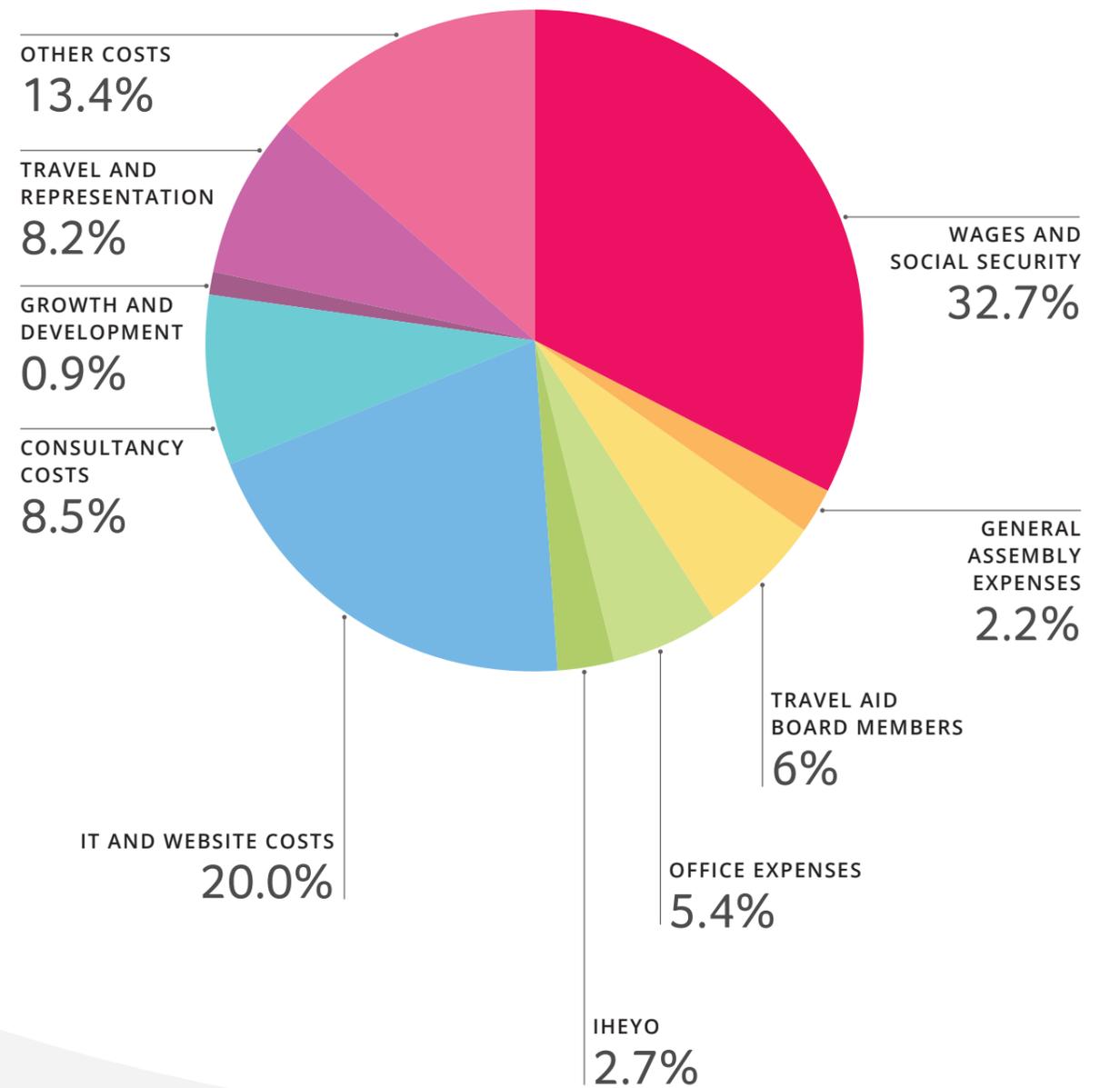
Income for the year ended 31 December 2017;

£206K



Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2017;

£390K



There is a large disparity between incoming and outgoing expenditure between 2016 and 2017. This is mainly due to a large restricted donation which was received in 2016 for a specific project. In 2017 there was significant expenditure on this project item, contributing to a large deficit for the end of the year.

“Our new branding combines a respect for the universal symbolism of Humanism, the ‘Happy Human’, with a bold and energetic new style.”

Gary McLelland, Chief Executive

Governance and management

The General Assembly approved plans to expand the Board in 2016 with new places dedicated to underrepresented regions. This new model has worked well throughout 2017, with the Board agreeing that great value has been gained through a more representative body with a wider array of experience.

The switch from “Executive Committee” to “Board” in 2016, with a more strategic focus and authority delegated to the Chief Executive, has also worked well. The Board is pleased that the expanded staff team has worked with good humour and great skill under the management of Gary McLelland in the Chief Executive role from early 2017.

The whole Board and staff team meet together in October for an annual Strategic Planning Meeting, which helps coordinate understanding between the strategic and operational elements of the organization.

Toward “Humanists International”

Following on from a workshop at the General Assembly in Malta, 2016, Humanists International consulted all Members in early 2017 on the prospect of finding a new name for the organization, and what it should be. Based on feedback from many of our Member Organizations and Individual Supporters, there was a general consensus that a more concise name and a fresh new brand would be highly beneficial to the organization. The Board then proposed a new name to the 2017 General Assembly: “Humanists International”.

The recommendation was approved, meaning that the International Humanist and Ethical Union will become renamed as “Humanists International” in late 2018. We will be taking advantage of the name change by implementing a significant re-brand to modernize and clarify our public persona.

Following the General Assembly decision, we planned a timetable to implement the changes by September 2018. This is a much briefer and leaner schedule than many larger organizations would undertake, designed not to distract from core work, but to get the job done promptly and professionally. So, in the latter part of 2017 we began planning significant website development, which will be implemented through 2018. On the front-end, the site design will be uplifted to 2018 web standards (the last major build and redesign was in 2013). On the back-end there will be improved security, and users will have direct control over personal data including subscription options.

Fundraising

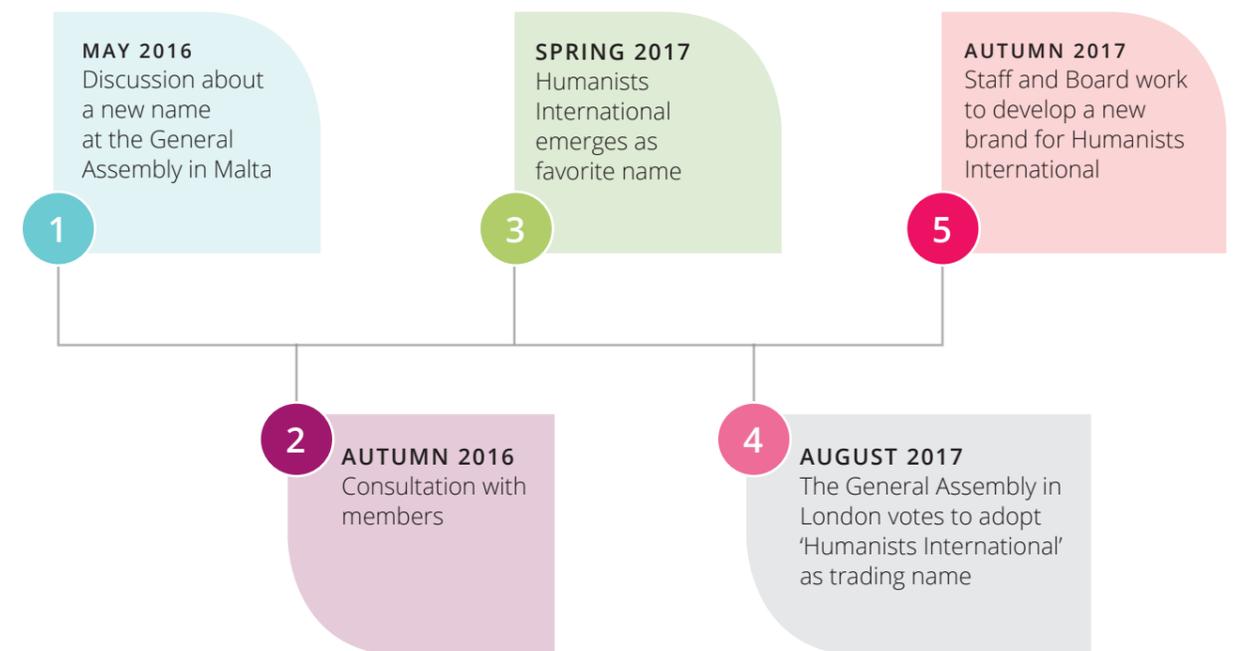
In 2017 we launched the Humanists at Risk crowdfunding campaign, using World Humanist Day as a launching point to bring together our Member Organizations and supporters to reflect on the situation globally for humanists and raise funds for Humanists International.

The campaign raised just over £10,000 - however this took several months to complete. This highlights the stark challenge of trying to fundraise for organizations which are international in focus and perhaps demonstrates that, as an umbrella organization whose membership is made up of



other organizations, our reach and influence to the individuals who form the “crowd” in crowdfunding is limited. We will be working hard in 2018 to engage Member Organizations ahead of the 2018 campaign to promote the appeal to their own individual members and supporters.

Rebranding Timeline



International Humanist and Ethical Youth Organization (IHEYO)

Throughout the year, IHEYO continued working on its internal structure and cooperation with IHEU in order to be a strong and active organisation.

IHEYO's President and General-Secretary attended IHEU Board meetings and stayed in close contact with the IHEU staff in order to prepare the unification of membership of IHEU and IHEYO, as well as to coordinate on the re-naming and re-branding of the organizations.

At the same time, the IHEYO Working Groups (for Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe) focussed on their respective regions, building up their teams and organising events.

In each region, one major event took place. With the African Humanist Youth Days in Lagos, Nigeria, and Game Changers in Manila, Philippines, there were two big conferences full of talks, workshops and networking. Members of the Americas Working Group met at an event of our member organisation Future of Ethical Societies in Asheville, USA, to make plans to expand their work to more American countries. And in Europe, IHEYO gathered at the General Assembly that took place in London, UK.

At the General Assembly in August, a new Vice-President and Secretary General were elected. With Scott Jacobsen from Humanist Canada and Romeo de Bellefroid from DeMens.nu, IHEYO's Executive Committee now has two motivated and hard-working volunteers.

The Communications Officer and Vice-President were able to achieve a major increase in the outreach of IHEYO's social media. IHEYO has a Twitter and Facebook account with increasing rates of followers, and an active and successful blog (Humanist Voices) where interviews and articles are published regularly.

In 2017, the EC consisted of the following members



PRESIDENT:

- Marieke Prien
HVD/Bundes JuHu, Germany

VICE-PRESIDENT

- Scott Jacobsen
Humanist Canada, Canada

SECRETARY GENERAL

- Anton van Dyck Demens.nu, Belgium
Romeo de Bellefroid Demens.nu, Belgium

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

- Anya Overmann
Future of Ethical Societies, USA

CHAIR AFRICAN WORKING GROUP

- Roslyn Mould
Humanist Association of Ghana

CHAIR AMERICAS WORKING GROUP

- Ariel Pontes
Secular Humanist League of Brazil /
Romanian Humanist Association and
Romanian Secular Humanist Association

CHAIR ASIAN WORKING GROUP

- Wade Kardaal
Taichung Skeptics in the Pup, Taiwan
- Feng Chin Wen
Humanistic Pastafarianism in Taiwan

CHAIR EUROPEAN WORKING GROUP

- Emma Bryce
Humanist Students, UK



Humanists
INTERNATIONAL

The International Humanist and Ethical Union (Humanists International)
is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization incorporated in New York, USA.
And registered in England, number FC020642.

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