Bold and brave.

We are the global representative body of the humanist movement.
## Foreword

Much of 2019 was marked by the ongoing persecution of my dear friend and Board colleague Gulalai Ismail.

Gulalai was detained by Pakistan’s security services on her way home from a Humanists International Board meeting in October 2018. Within minutes of her being detained our staff were alerted and had begun the process of compiling information and coordinating our global campaign to ensure her safety.

Almost an entire year of campaigning and lobbying followed. You may remember that when we met in Reykjavik in June 2019, we took a moment to reflect on the situation for our friend, and to redouble our efforts to bring her to safety. It was a time of high anxiety.

Three months later Gulalai reached safety in the United States, where she is now living in asylum. In her own words Gulalai says that Humanists International played a ‘key role’ in getting her to safety.

You will read more in this report about the ongoing requests we continue to receive from humanists at risk around the world. I and my fellow members of the Board take these concerns seriously, and in late 2019 approved plans from the Chief Executive to greatly increase the resources available to support humanists at risk. These are needed more than ever.

2019 also was the year where I was re-elected for the second time directly by our members at the General Assembly. It is a huge privilege to be President of Humanists International, and I am very grateful to you all for your continued support. Our joint work for human rights and human progress has never been more vital and I thank you for allowing me to serve in leading it in the coming years.

Thank you.

Andrew Copson
President
2019 was another busy year, the official launch of our new branding and website went really well, and we received a lot of great feedback from our Members and Associates.

Gary McLelland
Chief Executive

I would also like to pay special tribute to our colleague Bob Churchill, who left the organisation at the end of 2019 after seven years with the organisation.

Bob helped to establish a whole strand of work around human rights and the non-religious, developing the Freedom of Thought Report, coordinating the End Blasphemy Laws campaign, and championing the cause of ‘humanists at risk’ casework within the organization. His contribution to the organization, and the wider community, cannot be overstated.

It has become clear that we must focus more attention and resources on supporting the most vulnerable in our community: humanists at risk. Thanks to the increasing support from our Members and Associates, 2020 will see us grow the staff team so that we can scale up the level of our work. Specifically we will hire a Humanists at Risk Coordinator, who will be a senior staff position within the organization who will focus on providing support to humanists at risk, as well as supporting our Members and Associates who are also doing this important work.

Following a significant change to our internal democracy at the 2019 General Assembly, a big job of work has been undertaken to review our governance structure and to ensure that we are effectively set-up to do our work. Changes to structures will mean that we will have a greater degree of separation between our entities in the UK and the US, this will streamline our financial processes and make our governance and financial oversight more transparent and robust, as well as bring us in-line with good governance practices for international NGOs.

Thank you for your support, and a special thank you to my staff colleagues and volunteers who work harder than you can imagine.

Thank you
Our objectives

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.

Our people

Our Board

President: Andrew Copson
United Kingdom

Vice-president: Anne-France Ketelaer
Belgium

Treasurer: Boris van der Ham
Netherlands

Board Member: Becky Hale
United States of America

Board Member: Gulalai Ismail
Pakistan

Board Member: Kristin Mile
Norway

Board Member: Kato Mukasa
Uganda

Until 2 June 2019

Board Member: Uttam Niraula
Nepal

Board Member: David Pineda
Guatemala

Board Member: Roslyn Mould
Ghana

From 2 June 2019

Treasurer: Boris van der Ham
Netherlands

Chief Executive: Gary McLelland

Director of Advocacy: Elizabeth O’Casey

Finance Administrator: Jean Zong

UN, New York: John Wagner

UN, New York: Daniel Hoffman

Research: Amina Zavarella

Advocacy: Jessica McDonald

Director of Communications and Campaigns: Bob Churchill

Growth and Development Officer: Giovanni Gaetani

UN, Geneva: Kacem El Ghazzali

UN, New York: Margaretha Jones

Council of Europe: Renate Bauer

Advocacy: Francesca Gallelli
Key figures

- **75 delegates** at GA (compared to 54 in the previous year)
- **Income** is up 70% compared to last year
- **£102,669** given out in growth and development grants, more than 6x the amount of last year
- **12 Parliamentarians** from around the world trained on the Humanist worldview and human rights
- **Over 400 people** took part in 40 Café Humaniste events
- **We delivered 19 statements** at the UN and 2 at the OSCE
- **15 European Union Foreign Office staff** trained on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Evangelical influence in Africa and Latin America

We supported **96 Humanists at Risk**
Gulalai Ismail, a Board member of Humanists International, from Pakistan, was first detained on 12 October 2018 as she returned to Islamabad from a Board meeting in London.

Following her detention, Humanists International – and other humanist organisations around the world – led an active campaign to raise awareness of her persecution. Almost one year later, on 19 September 2019, Gulalai sent this personal message to our Members and Supporters:

“I have arrived safely in the United States, and I am on track to get asylum here where I can be safe. The last few months have been awful. I have been threatened, harassed, and I am lucky to be alive. I need you to know how immensely grateful I am to all of you, and to the wider humanist family around the world; by continuing to raise my case and making sure that authorities in Pakistan could not forget about me. The work of Humanists International was key in making sure that the authorities in Pakistan were held to account. I am incredibly grateful to all of you who helped.”
Proposed by the Boards of the European Humanist Federation, Humanists International, and Young Humanists International

Human beings are part of the natural world, but have a disproportionate effect on the global environment and biodiversity. Throughout history, our species has used the natural world to increase individual and collective wellbeing, and the impact we have is no longer sustainable. Policies adopted by governments should be informed by scientific findings. Governments need to respect the overwhelming conclusions reached by the international scientific community, including that the overuse of natural resources and the increase in greenhouse gas emissions is driving catastrophic climate change, threatening the diversity of life on Earth and the sustainability of human societies. Indeed, extreme scenarios pose an existential risk to humanity. The world must act with urgency and in a globally coordinated way to reduce and prevent human contributions to climate change, to mitigate climate impacts and adapt to them.

We recognise:
• The overwhelming scientific consensus that human beings are contributing to the climate change trend of global warming;
• That climate change will adversely affect human communities, non-human animals and natural ecosystems;
• The threat to ecosystems caused by land-use and resource extraction, including commercial deforestation and unsustainable farming;
• That investment in new renewable energy technology must happen alongside a massive reduction in the use of carbon-intensive fuels, such as coal, oil and gas;
• That all countries need to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to preserve habitats and species.
• That economic development resulting from industrialisation has historically advantaged countries as they develop, and that wealthier countries should assist developing countries in meeting environmental obligations.

We support:
• The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the resulting work of the 2017 Paris Agreement, and the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23);
• The urgent work of the scientific, engineering and activist communities to research and deploy new technologies and strategies to mitigate the risks to civilisation and biodiversity;
• The need for a global transition to new ways of using resources and new means of generating energy that will be socially and environmentally sustainable.

We call upon all humanist organizations, civil society in general, and all individuals around the world to:
1. Highlight to their governments and regional bodies the need for urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make land-use and resource extraction sustainable, and to protect and conserve wild habitats;
2. Foster a social and political commitment to urgent action and long-term policymaking to mitigate and prevent climate change.

In total the team delivered 19 statements – some of them in Arabic. The subjects of statements included: blasphemy, apostasy and the cases of humanists at risk; LGBTI rights; sexual and reproductive health and rights; with a focus on the abortion bans and criminalisation of miscarriage in Central America; women human rights defenders; the rights of the child (including child marriage and child sacrifice); the rise of populist nationalism and minority-blaming; and the global climate change emergency.

Countries covered included Saudi Arabia, Iran, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Brunei, Norway, Cyprus, New Zealand, and Morocco. The advocacy team worked with Member Organizations such as the Norwegian Humanist Association, the Cyprus Humanist Association, the New Zealand Humanists, and the Humanist Association of Nigeria to draft the statements and deliver them.

In March, the Director of Advocacy was a panellist at a Human Rights Council side-event organised by Association for Progressive Communications and FORUM-ASIA on “Defending Expression and Diversity of Religion and Belief or Non-Belief in the Digital Age.”

This year, the Director of Advocacy was re-elected as Vice Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (Geneva) for another three-year term. In that role, she met with the International Contact Group for Freedom of Religion or Belief. The Contact Group occupies a unique role as an informal body, to enhance information sharing and cooperation between states committed to protecting and promoting the right to freedom of religion or belief.

The Director of Advocacy joined our New York volunteers in the autumn to attend meetings around the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. Volunteer Representative, Margaretha Jones, continues to be active on the NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Commission on the Status of Women NGO Committee and the Conference of NGOs. Volunteer Representative John Wagner continues to hold a position on the board of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (New York).

We have also been involved in UN initiatives outside Geneva and New York. For example, the Director of Advocacy participated in a two day workshop as part of the Office for the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR)’s Faith for Rights initiative. The point of which was to come up with a training manual on the Faith for Rights issues. The Director of Advocacy attended the UN Istanbul Process meeting in the Hague. The Istanbul meetings are one outcome of the UN 16/18 Resolution recommendations and are a joint venture of some Western states and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. The meetings cover Freedom of Religion and Belief and combating intolerance and hatred.

Whilst there, the Director of Advocacy was interviewed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs- who organised the conference – so as to feed into a briefing to be sent to all Dutch embassies on Freedom of Religion or Belief and combating intolerance and hatred.

Finally, the Danish and Norwegian Ministries of Foreign Affairs Offices and their Special Representatives on Freedom of Religion or Belief launched a year-long consultation process on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Gender Equality within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Director of Advocacy was invited to become a member of the expert group leading it. She participated in the three workshops through the year. The end result was a publication by the Danish Institute for Human Rights on “Promoting freedom of religion or belief and gender equality in the context of the sustainable development goals.”
At the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

The Director of Advocacy attended the Third Forum of the Inter-American Human Rights System and the 174th Session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. These were held in Quito, Ecuador. This was primarily a fact-finding mission to see how the Commission works and the possibilities for helping or supporting American Member Organisations to take cases there.

Working with the EU and the European Union External Action Service

Humanists International has continued to engage with the EU’s External Action Service (EEAS) and other European Union Institutions, such as the Commission and Parliament. The Director of Advocacy continued to attend meetings between NGOs and the EEAS designed to help set the Human Rights priorities for the Service, kept in contact with staff on situations of concern outside of Europe, and also met with Eamon Gilmore, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights. The Director of Advocacy attended a consultation meeting on the European Parliament’s Article 17 process (the process in which it engages – by Treaty obligation – with confessional and non-confessional groups) and spoke on a panel at an event in Brussels looking back at the work of the (then) Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief outside the EU over his past term.

Training of policy-makers

In September, the Director of Advocacy took part in the three-day training course run by the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB) and led a session on how the right to freedom of religion or belief includes humanist and non-religious “beliefs”. Attendees included parliamentarians from Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Myanmar.

The Director of Advocacy was also part of a team training European External Action Service officials and EU diplomats in Freedom of Religion or Belief and Diplomacy. She ran three out of the eight sessions and was part of the final roundtable. Whilst one of her sessions looked at the “Belief” in the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief, the Director of Advocacy focused her other two sessions on the rise of Evangelicalism in Latin America and in Africa and its impact on Human Rights. This follows from an increasing focus our advocacy is taking in combating the anti-choice movement globally.

At the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

The Director of Advocacy attended the 64th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, in Egypt. Whilst there, she made two statements. One drew attention to anti-blasphemy and apostasy laws in the region, with an emphasis on the host nation, Egypt. The other highlighted the right to freedom of expression for all people whatever their gender identity or sexual orientation. This second was supported by the Humanist Association of Nigeria and drew on the Director of Advocacy’s experience of hearing how the Nigerians and other representatives at the UN speak of LGBTI people in their own countries. The Director of Advocacy also attended the NGO Forum which preceded the session of the Commission.

At the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The Director of Advocacy was appointed as a member of the OSCE’s Expert Panel on Freedom of Religion or Belief. She spent three days in Warsaw in September for her first meeting and was nominated to be part of its sub-committee on Gender and FoRB.

Volunteer Representative Kacem El Ghazalli attended the OSCE’s annual human rights meeting (known as the Human Dimension Implementation meeting) on behalf of Humanists International. Whilst there he met the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, OSCE officials, and he delivered two oral statements; one calling on Poland to do more to protect the rights of women and the other on the right to peaceful protest and freedom of association.

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Advocacy


The 2019 edition celebrates the fact that eight countries have actually abolished ‘blasphemy’ laws in the past five years. But it also warns of a growing divide on the issue globally. At least 69 countries still retain such laws, and their penalties and prosecution are hardening in a number of states. States such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are noted as “perennial” blasphemy prosecutors. Despite the well-publicised release of Christian farm-worker Asia Bibi, the ongoing imprisonment of several accused atheists and many others in Pakistan, as well as extra-judicial violence against both humanists and religious minorities related to blasphemy accusations is condemned.

The Report also highlights a deterioration in other countries. Both Brunei and Mauritania have actually increased the penalties for ‘blasphemy’ and ‘apostasy’ in the past two years. Brunei’s new 2019 penal code renders blasphemy and apostasy, as well as other hudud crimes such as adultery and homosexuality, punishable by death. Mauritania introduced a mandatory death sentence for blasphemy and apostasy in April 2018. High-profile ‘blasphemy’ prosecutions are cited as cause for concern in Indonesia, as is the backlash against demonstrators protesting forced hijab in Iran, and prosecutions and intercommunal violence related to Hindutva beliefs demonstrates a deteriorating situation in India.

Europe does not entirely escape criticism, despite the overall positive trend in the region, with Italy and Spain singled out for prosecutions against artists and protesters in recent years.

An advocacy success: The Release of Chiekh!

August brought us some wonderful news: Mauritanian anti-slavery activist and writer, Cheikh Ould Mohamed MKheitir, whom we have been campaigning on behalf of since his imprisonment in 2013 was released after a pardon from the President.

You might remember the Director of Advocacy met his lawyers when in Mauritania in April 2018. His is a case we have lobbied on consistently for years. Cheikh is now in the process of seeking asylum in France. The Director of Advocacy met him in Paris and attended a meeting at the Asylum Centre with him. We also mobilised our network to help him find safe accommodation.

Freedom of Thought Report


The 2019 edition celebrates the fact that eight countries have actually abolished ‘blasphemy’ laws in the past five years. But it also warns of a growing divide on the issue globally. At least 69 countries still retain such laws, and their penalties and prosecution are hardening in a number of states. States such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are noted as “perennial” blasphemy prosecutors. Despite the well-publicised release of Christian farm-worker Asia Bibi, the ongoing imprisonment of several accused atheists and many others in Pakistan, as well as extra-judicial violence against both humanists and religious minorities related to blasphemy accusations is condemned.

Combating the anti-choice movement

Whilst attending the Winter session of the Council of Europe, we helped organise a briefing for MPs on the issue of anti-choice actors working to undermine human rights at the Council. The briefing was jointly hosted by European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) Europe, International Planned Parenthood Federation-EH and the European Humanist Federation. The briefing also discussed the application by ADF International for NGO observer status at the Council of Europe. Their bid was rejected on the grounds that their advocacy and values went against the values of the Istanbul Convention. Together, with the European Humanist Federation playing a key role, as a group of progressive NGOs we ensured that a liberal (Francophone) Belgian MEP would be in charge of examining their appeal which in the end put them off appealing.

In parallel, our Director of Advocacy has been working with a group of progressive allies in New York to raise an awareness around the work of the anti-choice lobby at the UN, which is often funded by American and Russian ultra-conservative and far-right organisations.

The Director of Advocacy also participated in a three-day International Strategy Meeting on Gender Justice and Anti-Rights Movements, (in association with the Observatory on the Universality of Rights), in Mexico City. The purpose of this was to bring together NGO representatives from across the world to strategise together to formulate some concrete actions to push forward the work and counter the religious right and fundamentalists undermining human rights.

Finally, Humanists International joined hundreds of other NGOs in signing a statement delivered at the UN in support of the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Despite heavy opposition from anti-choice actors and representatives from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the mandate was successfully renewed for another term.

At the end of 2019, Humanists International’s ratified membership was:

Members: **43**

Associates: **84**

Total: **127**

New members in 2019:

- „Taip” kitaip
- Atheists Union
- Bogota’s Atheist Association
- Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education
- Children’s Spaces
- Council of Ex-Muslims of Sri Lanka
- Filipino Freethinkers
- Foundation ADFP
- Hispanic American Freethinkers
- Humanists & Atheists of Zambia
- Humanists Liberia
- Humanists on Kiva
- Mumbai Rationalist Association
- Rationalist Society of Australia Inc.
- Sapiens Foundation
- Secular Humanists Mauritius
- South African Secular Society
- Think School
- Turkish Association of Atheism
Growth and development

2019 Humanist Training Sessions
After our General Assembly in Reykjavik (Iceland) on 2 June we organised two parallel training sessions for humanist activists and professionals: one on humanist ceremonies and counselling, the other on humanist campaigns and communications.

We recorded all panels and have made available online the videos of the humanist training on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLShpCAOKRORRnBK5daljPFzk7bSP66m-k

2019 European Training
In mid-2019 we received funding from the Norwegian Humanist Association meant to support our Growth & Development Plan in Europe. The rationale behind this is that by focusing some resources directly to where organised humanism is strong, it can lead to an ever increasing level of support for Humanists International; that by helping humanist organisations in Europe to grow, they will be able to make a larger contribution to organised humanism more quickly.

We have used this fund to organise the 2019 European Humanist Training, three different training sessions for our European Members and Associates held in London, Oslo and Utrecht between October and November on three fundamental fields: Membership; Communication & Campaigns; Humanist Ceremonies & Counselling.

For more info: humanists.international/2019/09/2019-european-humanist-training

Humanist Development Grants
In 2019 we received a restricted donation to support the growth and development of humanist organisations in developing countries. In June 2019 we launched a new special grants programme called “Humanist Development Grants”: three grants of £10,000 each, for a total of £30,000 to support the projects of three organisations in developing countries over two years.

The three organisations awarded are the following:

Humanists in Northern Uganda (Humanists NUg), to promote humanism in the region by organising seminars for teachers, workshops for students, and other public grassroots initiatives;

Humanist Alliance Philippines, International (HAPI), to create an online platform called The Youmanist Project (facebook.com/TheYouManistProject), meant to spread humanist values online for the Filipino audience, especially for the younger generations;

Humanist Association for Leadership, Equity and Accountability (HALEA Uganda), to launch a campaign to legalize humanist marriages in Uganda.

The Humanist Development Grants scheme was the fifth round of grants made available in 2019, following Regional Hub Grants that awarded a total of £12,500, as well as the Young Regional Hub Grants which distributed £16,500 to nine organizations, the Café Humaniste programme which offered 16 grants of £400 each and the Travel Grants to help representatives of our Members and Associates to attend our General Assembly in Reykjavik (Iceland) on 2 June, for a total of £6,100 awarded. More details below.
Café Humaniste
In 2019 the Café Humaniste series of events reached the record number of 18 events when compared with six and eight events organised in 2017 and 2018 respectively: hmnts.in/CH-calendar

- 23 February, Uganda: Why do people pray?
- 22 March, Uganda: Advancing critical thinking
- 6 April, Philippines: Access to clean water is a basic human right
- 13 April, Uganda: Religion and Morality
- 27 April, Philippines: Humanism and knowing what is true
- 7 May, Serbia: Secularism in the Balkans
- 25 May, Liberia: Humanism and women’s empowerment
- 13 June, Nepal: Strengthening the humanist movement in Nepal I
- 27 June, Nepal: Strengthening the humanist movement in Nepal II
- 14 July, Philippines: Preventing human trafficking and child labor
- 3 August, Liberia: Should we legalize marijuana? An open debate
- 5 August, Philippines: Tao – humanism and secularism in the Philippines
- 7 September, Uganda: Religion, children and indoctrination
- 20 September, Cyprus: Will we ever get Church-State separation?
- 1 December, Sweden: Promoting diversity, resisting discrimination
- 16 December, Poland: Secularism in Poland
- 22 December, Philippines: How humanists celebrate holidays
- 26 December, Lebanon: Secularism in Lebanon

Regional Hub Grants
In January 2019 Humanists International relaunched the third annual “Regional Humanist Hub grants” programme, giving priority to applications coming from Members and Associates in Asia, our priority region for 2019.

The grants programme provides a modest boost for projects aimed at promoting humanism or humanist campaigning, or capacity-building for humanist organizations. 22 Member Organizations from all over the world sent their project proposals, for a total of $95,000, and on 20 March the decision was made to award five of them a total of $15,900 (equivalent to £12,500):

- **Filipino Freethinkers – $6,500:** “Hello, humanists!”, a 21-episode podcast series with humanist activists from the Asian region, including Nepal, Taiwan, India, the Philippines, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, etc. http://hmnts.in/hello-humanists
- **Atheist Bogotá – $4,800:** “The art of thinking”, a series of free courses on skepticism and critical thinking for 720 students in the city of Bogotá (Colombia)
- **Prometheus Society of Slovakia – $2,200:** Delivery of a secular campaign to inform citizens in Slovakia about the 2020 national census, through videos, posted leaflets, and the creation of a new dedicated web-portal
- **Humanist Association for Leadership, Equity and Accountability – $1,800:** Creation of a website to train and manage humanist celebrants and to provide information on how to organise humanist ceremonies in Africa
- **Peruvian Atheist Association – $600:** Delivery of 2020 campaign “Exonérate Peru” (“Opt-out Peru”), whose main goal is to provide information to parents about current legislation in Peru and the legal procedures to opt-out their children from the Catholic teaching.

Travel grants for the GA in Iceland
We awarded a total of €6,100 to help six representatives of humanist organizations in developing countries to attend our General Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 2 June 2019. Here is the list of grantees:

- Roslyn Naa Ayele Mould
  Humanist Association of Ghana (Ghana) – £1,250
- K. M. (anonymised for security reasons)
  Humanist Society Pakistan (Pakistan) – £1,250
- Edwin A. Bulaclac Jr
  Humanist Alliance Philippines International (Philippines) – £1,000
- Rosa Eva Quiñones Segarra
  Secular Humanists of Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico) – £1,000
- Gerardo Miguel Rivera Chaparro
  Secular Humanist Association UPRM (Puerto Rico) – £1,000
- Tucker Brent Lieberman
  Bogotá Atea (Colombia) – £600
General Assembly

On 1 June Young Humanists International held its 2019 General Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland. 25 attendees from 14 countries were present and elected two representatives:

Vice President: Jad Zeitouni from demens.nu, Belgium
Secretary-General: Scott Jacobsen, Humanist Canada

The Elections

Notably, Young Humanists International took part in the Reykjavik Declaration on the Climate Change Crisis, which was announced on 2 June during the General Assembly of Humanists International.

Elections of new Chairs of Regional Committees

2019 started with welcoming the new Chairs of the Regional Committees:

Danielle Hill (Asia)
Viola Namyalo (Africa)
Hari Parekh (Europe)
Rony Marques (Americas)

The Chairs had meetings with the President of Young Humanists International, Marieke Prien from Germany, received a hand over from the Executive Committee and were introduced to its bi-monthly meetings.

Young Humanists Grants

In April 2019, Young Humanists International launched for the first time the “Young Regional Humanist Hub grants” programme, to award activities, events and projects focusing on the promotion of humanism specifically for young people.

15 Member Organizations from all over the world sent their project proposals, for a total of £33,000 requested, and on 16 May the decision was made to award 9 of them for a total of £16,500.

The 9 grants awarded in 2019 include the organization of the 2019 Asian Humanism Conference, hosted by the Humanist Society Singapore on 6 July 2019; conferences, workshops and talks specifically tailored for young humanists, organised by our Ugandan, Zambian, Kenyan and Guatemalan Members and Associates; the publication of a YouTube channel on critical thinking and humanism for kids in Spanish, created by our Colombian Associate Children’s Spaces; the publication of an introduction to humanism for teenagers, created by the Italian Member of UAAR, both in English and Italian.

New structure

Taking on board the feedback from the discussion at the 2019 General Assembly, the Executive Committee decided to take some steps forward with the restructuring of Young Humanists International and worked on a plan to be implemented in 2020.

Check out our blog Humanist Voices and feel free to contact us if you want to contribute! https://medium.com/humanist-voices
Humanists At Risk

Between October 2018 and October 2019, we received over 130 *bona fide* requests for support. Of these 96 were given assistance, signposting, reassurance and guidance or other support. Of this group, 31 were given enhanced support, in the form of a letter of support, funding, or significant advocacy and legal coordination.

Finances

**Income**

2019 saw a large increase in income of 70% on the previous year’s income.

This increased income largely comes from two sources: 1) a large restricted donation of £60,000* for the purposes of growth and development in developing countries, and 2) a large increase in membership fees from £121k to £161k.

The £60,000 donation in 2019 comes as part of an agreed donation of £300,000 to be spent in five annual tranches of £60,000.

As well as this general rise in income, the organisation has also made some moves towards diversifying its income sources, which is a key part of its fundraising strategy. In future years we will wish to make further moves to diversify and grow our income.

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*Humanists At Risk*
## Summary of expenditure

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<th>2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>£70,893</td>
<td>£47,849</td>
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<td>Young Humanists</td>
<td>£3,014</td>
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<td>Growth and development</td>
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<td>Communication</td>
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<td>Freedom of Thought</td>
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<td>Freedom of Thought</td>
<td>£27,214</td>
<td>£20,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals at Risk</td>
<td>£29,385</td>
<td>£23,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign Co-ordination</td>
<td>£33,922</td>
<td>£24,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Human Right Council</td>
<td>£30,929</td>
<td>£24,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN New York</td>
<td>£15,545</td>
<td>£12,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Commission</td>
<td>£17,744</td>
<td>£14,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Advocacy</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Summary of 2019 accounts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Funds 2019</th>
<th>Funds 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>£160,993</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporters and donations</td>
<td>£125,553</td>
<td>£73,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>£6,549</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>£325,761</td>
<td>£136,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages and social security</td>
<td>£176,248</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General assembly expenses</td>
<td>£6,401</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel aid board members</td>
<td>£8,925</td>
<td>£13,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office expenses</td>
<td>£31,498</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance charges</td>
<td>£4,620</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website costs</td>
<td>£22,311</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultancy costs</td>
<td>£3,154</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth and development</td>
<td>£42,689</td>
<td>£64,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and representation</td>
<td>£48,423</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance costs</td>
<td>£18,189</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>£4,620</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign promotions</td>
<td>£3,154</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>£414,198</td>
<td>£77,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net (deficit)/income</td>
<td>-£121,103</td>
<td>-£4,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>before transfers, exchange and investment gains or losses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange (losses)/gains</td>
<td>-£28,326</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gains/(losses) on investments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>£391,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers between funds</td>
<td>£75,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Movement in Funds</td>
<td>-£74,429</td>
<td>-£4,440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Balance at 1 January 2019
- £244,344
- £310,332
- £1,988,380
- £2,543,056
- £2,665,414

### Balance at 31 December 2019
- £169,915
- £305,892
- £2,262,733
- £2,738,540
- £2,543,056

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

Thanks to the continuing support of our Members and Associates, and supporters, we are charting a plan for growth in the long term. Over the coming year and beyond, Humanists International will be looking to develop new areas of work specifically into research and research collaborations with academics and practitioners.

Staffing
Ahead of 2020, we will be restructuring our staff team and hiring new positions, such as the world’s first Humanists at Risk Coordinator, and a new Advocacy Officer to support the excellent work done by our Director of Advocacy. We will also develop plans to hire a new Grants and Development Officer to assist with the professionalisation and monitoring and evaluation of our programme. Thanks to the support of the Norwegian Humanist Association we will also be introducing a new 6-month paid internship, hosted in our office in London – we very much hope this becomes an annual occurrence.

Fundraising
As an organisation Humanists International is very dependent on our Members and Associates for our funding and support. We would like to diversify the sources of funding we receive, and in 2020 have identified a number of government, as well as non-governmental organisations, we would like to request funding from. We will also work on new initiatives for securing funding from individual donors, however we will be mindful not to undermine or ‘compete’ with the fundraising initiatives of our Members and Associates.

Governance
At the 2019 General Assembly, the Board agreed to undertake a review of the governing rules of the organisation, to ensure that they were fit for purpose and clear. This review will also include a review of the place of Young Humanists International in the structure of the organisation. The Board aims to report these changes to the General Assembly in 2020.

Humanists at Risk
In 2020 we will invest substantial funds and resources into supporting Humanists at Risk. We will develop a world-leading system of monitoring and supporting, as well as using this data and experience to feed into our wider research and advocacy efforts.

Research and collaboration
We are keen to develop new relationships and collaborations with academics and researchers who are interested in our areas of work. We would like to continue to develop the quality and impact of the research and advocacy that we produce, and to seek to work with others in doing so.
Humanists International is a trading name of The International Humanist and Ethical Union, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization incorporated in New York, USA, and registered in England, number FC020642.

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