



Bold and brave.

**We are the global
representative body of
the humanist movement.**



Humanists
INTERNATIONAL

Foreword

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



Gulalai was detained by Pakistani 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

Annual Report

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Introduction



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

Gary McLelland



The Objectives of Humanists International



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



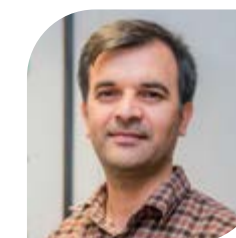
Board Member:
Gulalai Ismail
Pakistan



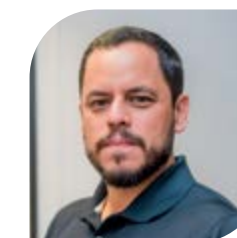
Board Member:
Kristin Mile
Norway



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

Our staff and volunteers



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:
Avilia 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



We supported

96 Humanists at Risk



Over 400 people

took part in 40 Café Humaniste events



12 Parliamentarians

from around the world trained on the Humanist worldview and human rights



Average age of GA delegates **was 42**



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



Update on Gulalai

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."

Report on the General Assembly

The 2019 Humanists International General Assembly took place in Reykjavik, Iceland on 2 June. Humanists were welcomed by the President of Iceland Mr. Guðni Th. Jóhannesson.

The General Assemblies of Humanists International, Young Humanists International, and the European Humanist Federation were held alongside a conference by the Icelandic Humanists on the theme of "What are the ethical questions of the 21st century?".

Delegates from around the world discussed and approved a new Reykjavik Declaration on the Climate Change Crisis, and approved changes to the Humanists International membership structure designed to increase democratic participation from newer humanist organizations. Read more here: <https://humanists.international/2019/06/looking-to-the-future-from-the-top-of-the-world/>



Reykjavik Declaration on the Climate Change Crisis

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.

Advocacy

At the United Nations

In 2019, Humanists International attended all three sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

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.”

Our work with UN Special Rapporteurs

In 2019, we participated in closed consultations with three UN Special Rapporteurs. One was with the Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights ahead of her drafting a report for the UN Human Rights Council on “Cultural Rights Defenders.” Another was with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression ahead of his 2020 report on artistic expression. The Director of Advocacy also attended regional consultations in Uruguay, Argentina, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Geneva, New York, on the UN Special Rapporteur’s 2020 report on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Gender and non-discrimination. As well as participating in these consultations, she organised a day’s worth of meetings in Brussels with EU officials and progressive NGOs for the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. He was hosted in the office of demens.nu, where the Director of Advocacy is based. She also contributed to his previous Human Rights Council report, which was on anti-blasphemy and anti-apostasy laws.



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.



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.



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-EN 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.

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.



Mairead McGuinness, Vice-President of the European Parliament, reading the report during the 2019 launch in the European Parliament on 13th November.

Freedom of Thought Report

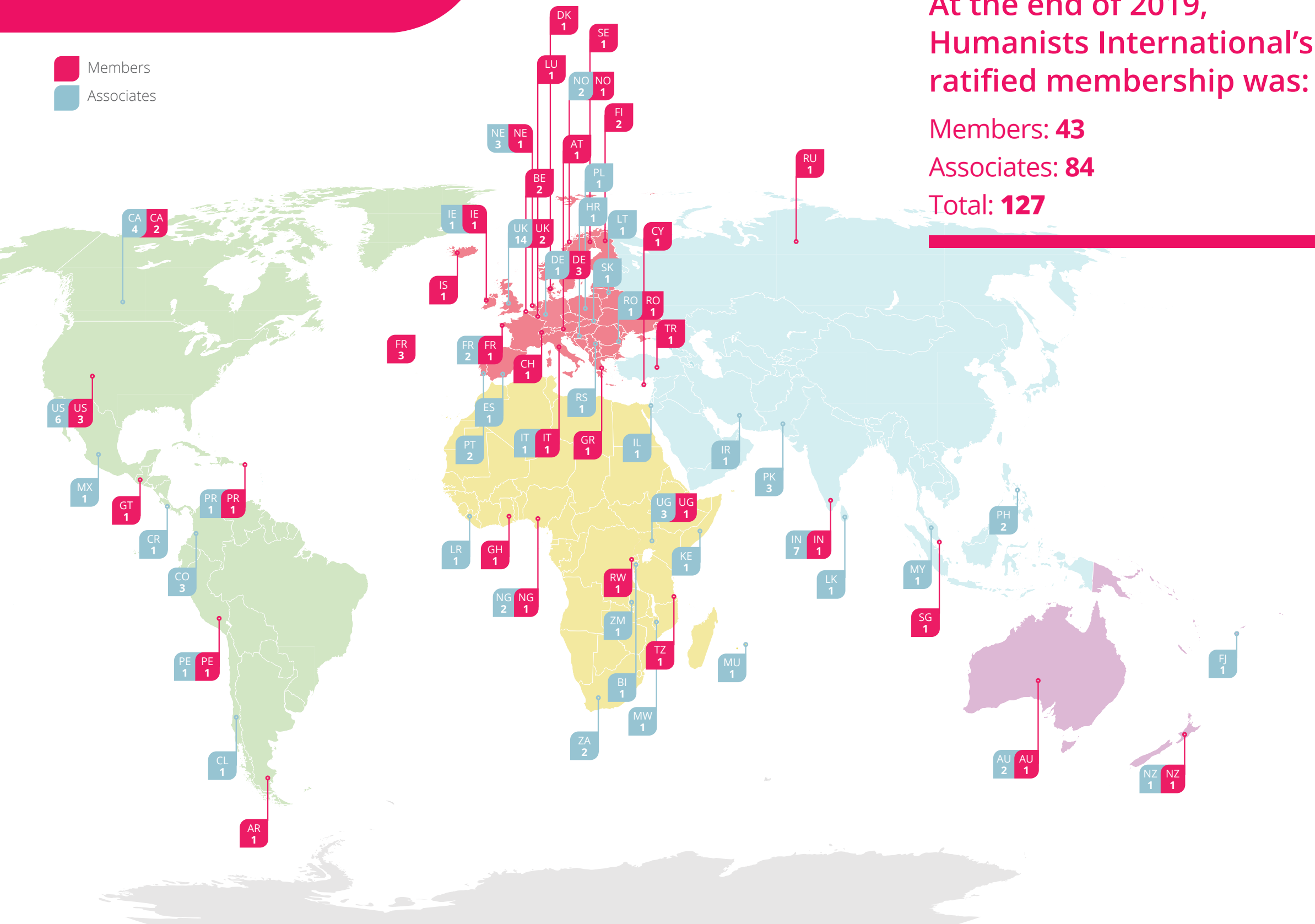
The 2019 edition of the Freedom of Thought Report was launched in the European Parliament on 13 November. Now in its eighth annual edition, it examines the legal and human rights situation for “humanists, atheists and the non-religious” around the world.

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.

Our members

Members
Associates



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=PLShpCAOKRO-RRnBk5daJgxFzk7bSP6m-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 “Exonerate 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:



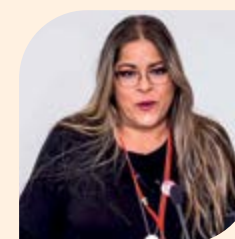
Roslyn Naa Ayele Mould
Humanist Association of
Ghana (Ghana) – £1,250



**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

Young 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.



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

After the elections, all the attendees engaged in a very interesting roundtable discussion around the structure and the strategies of Young Humanists International. One of the agreements was to keep the Regional Committees, since they allow a more grassroots approach.

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.



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.

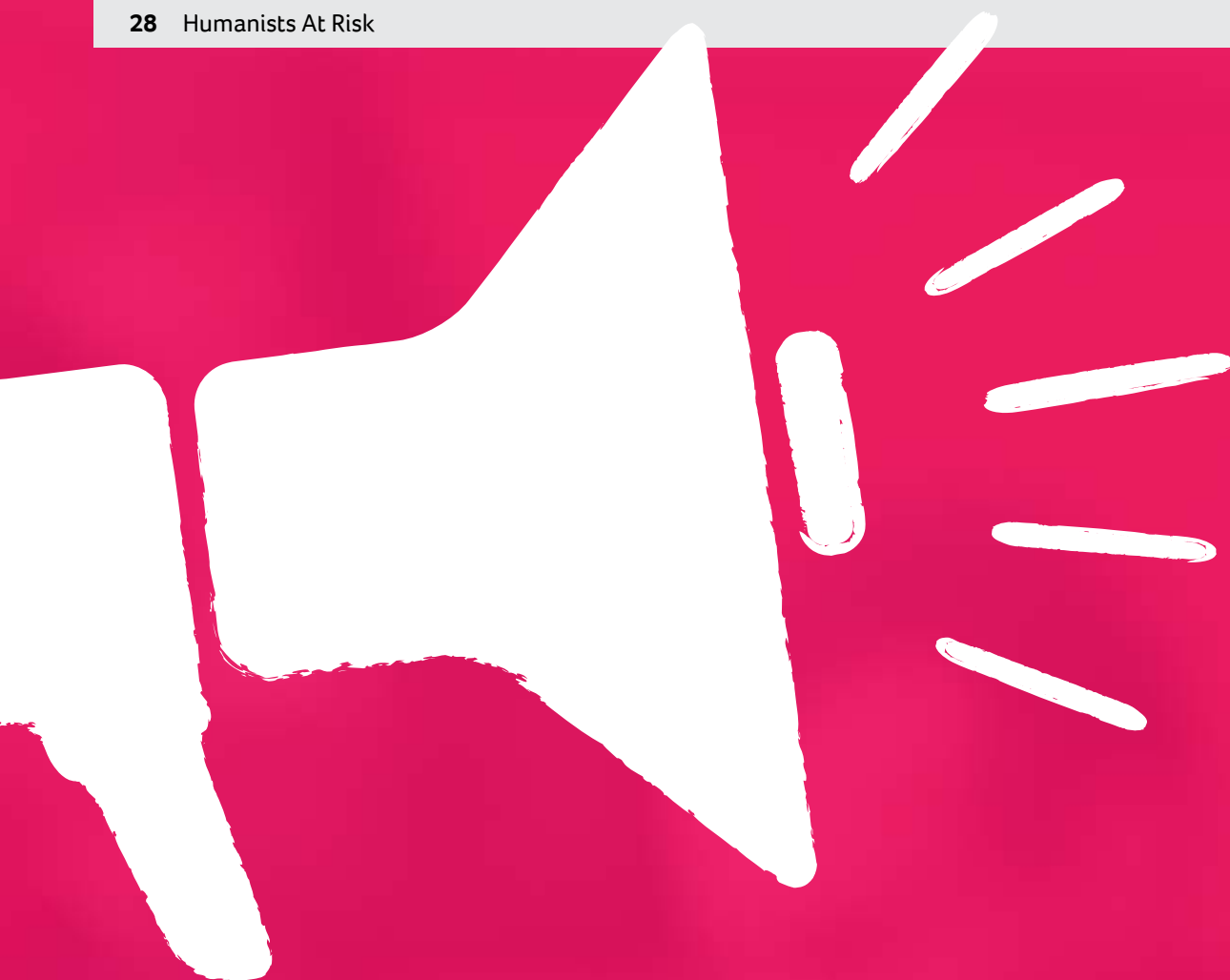
The 9 grants awarded in 2019 include the organization of the 2019 Asian Humanism Conference, hosted by the Humanist Society Singapore on 6 July 2019; conferences, workshops and talks specifically tailored for young humanists, organised by our Ugandan, Zambian, Kenyan and Guatemalan Members and Associates; 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

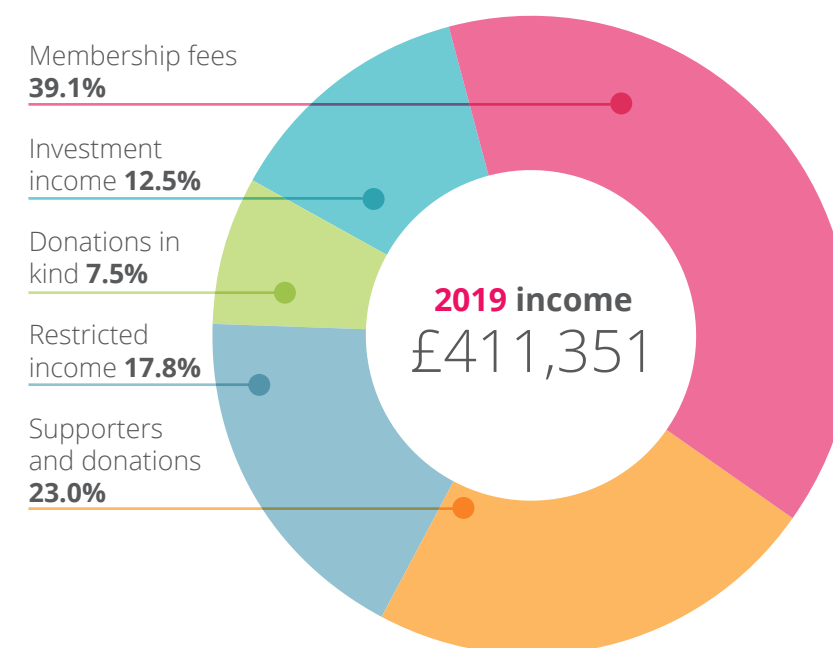
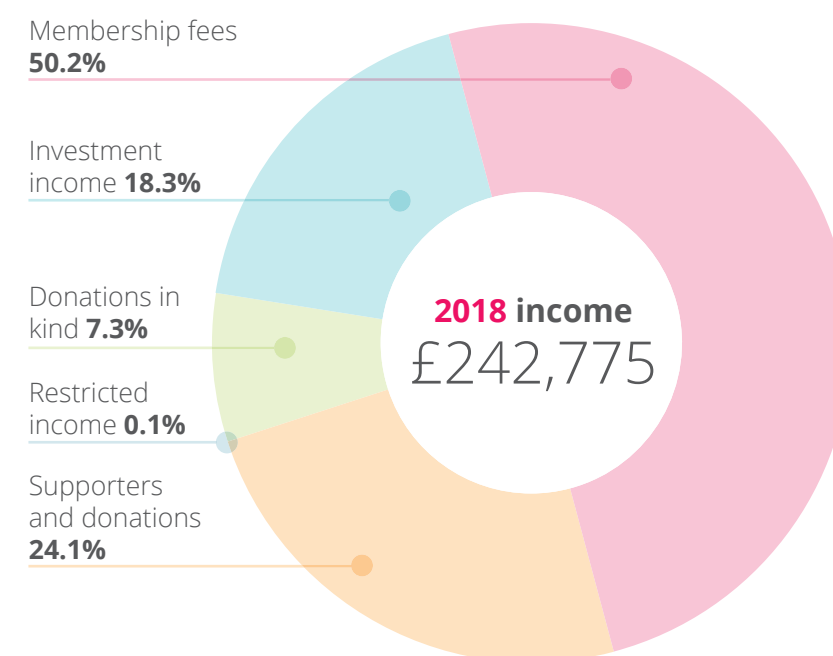
Income

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

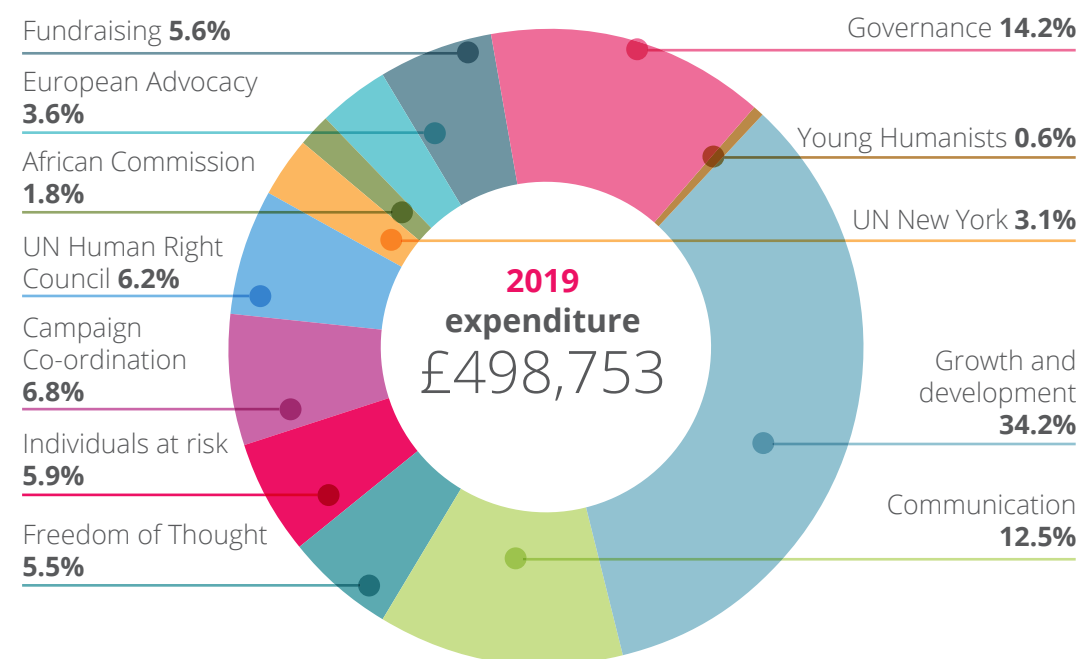
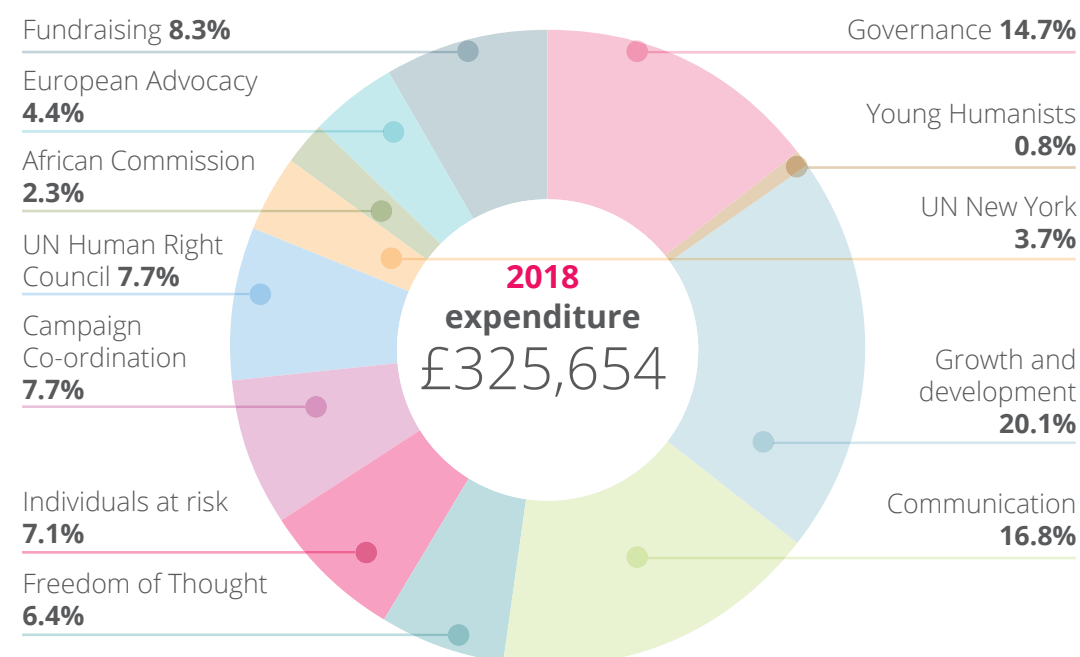
This increased income largely comes from two sources: 1) a large restricted donation of £60,000* for the purposes of growth and development in developing countries, and 2) a large increase in membership fees from £121k to £161k.

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.



Expenditure



Summary of expenditure

	2019 £	2018 £
Governance	70,893	47,849
Young Humanists International	3,014	2,633
Growth and development	170,680	65,502
Communication	62,450	54,774
Freedom of Thought report	27,214	20,877
Individuals at Risk	29,385	23,245
Campaign Coordination	33,922	24,948
UN Human Right Council	30,929	24,971
UN New York	15,545	12,187
African Commission	9,116	7,470
European Advocacy	17,744	14,312
Human Wisdom	-	-
Dalit	-	-
Fundraising	27,861	26,886
	498,753	325,654

Summary of 2019 accounts:

	Funds 2019			Funds 2018	
	£	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Total
Income					
Membership fees	160,993	-	-	160,993	121,881
Supporters and donations	125,553	73,240	-	198,793	76,560
Investment income	6,549	-	45,016	51,565	44,334
Total income	293,095	73,240	45,016	411,351	242,775
Expenditure					
Wages and social security	176,248	-	-	176,248	130,920
General assembly expenses	6,401	-	-	6,401	3,133
Travel aid board members	8,925	13,200	-	22,125	18,037
Office expenses	31,498	-	-	31,498	25,988
Finance charges	5,063	-	7,875	12,938	8,400
Website costs	22,311	-	-	22,311	19,039
Consultancy costs	45,093	-	-	45,093	44,758
Growth and development	42,689	64,480	-	107,169	18,438
Travel and representation	48,423	-	-	48,423	46,526
Governance costs	18,189	-	-	18,189	2,009
Audit fees	4,620	-	-	4,620	4,500
Campaign promotions	3,154	-	-	3,154	1,634
Fundraising	1,584	-	-	1,584	2,282
Total expenditure	414,198	77,680	7,875	499,753	325,664
Net (deficit)/income before transfers, exchange and investment gains or losses	-121,103	-4,440	37,141	-88,402	-82,889
Exchange (losses)/gains	-28,326	-	-79,521	-107,847	144,583
Gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	391,733	391,733	-184,052
Transfers between funds	75,000	-	-75,000		-
Net Movement in Funds	-74,429	-4,440	274,353	195,484	-122,358
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.

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.

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.

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.

Humanists International,
The Green House,
244-254 Cambridge Heath Road,
London, E2 9DA.
Email: office@humanists.international



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