

The following is the full text of the letter to the editor published in The Times on 11 March 2015

Letter to the editor in support of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

March 2015

Dear Sir

Charities like the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) frequently work in complex and difficult environments to promote peace, justice and equality. They succeed because of their expertise and integrity in navigating these complexities while retaining the trust of all stakeholders.

No body should be above reproach or regulation, but, as other funders, charities, NGOs and concerned individuals, we affirm the right of charities and foundations to freely pursue their objectives within the law.

In doing so, we express our support for the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, which has come under regulatory pressure and media attacks in recent days.

JRCT has a long and distinguished record of support for important civil society work in the UK and beyond. It has funded work which has made vital contributions to the Northern Ireland peace process, the transition to democracy in South Africa, and to furthering rights and justice, corporate accountability and democratic reform, amongst other issues. At times its work has been risky or controversial, but in our experience it has always acted with the greatest integrity.

We wish the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust a long and successful future.

Signed by those listed below.

Notes:

- Nothing in this letter should be read as supporting the statements of the advocacy group Cage in relation to the Mohammed Emwazi case in recent weeks.
- As a pacifist Quaker trust, JRCT rejects all violence, including all violence to political ends. The Trust has not made, and would not make, grants for work to advocate violence or excuse the use of violence.
- The last JRCT grant award to Cage was decided in 2011 and the last instalment of this grant was paid in January 2014. The Trust publicly confirmed on 6 March 2015 that it would not fund Cage now or in future.
- The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (www.jrct.org.uk) is an entirely separate body from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (www.jrf.org.uk) and Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust (www.jrrt.org.uk). To avoid any confusion, any references to this Trust should use our full name.

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Manchester Institute of Innovation Research

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Paul Murphy, Executive Director, Saferworld

Joe Murray, Action from Ireland

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Michael Norton, Director, Centre for Innovation in Voluntary Action

Richard Norton-Taylor, Journalist

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Charity Commission for Northern Ireland

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Gillian Slovo

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Sarah Spencer CBE

Siobhan Spencer MBE, National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups

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Carolyne Willow, Author

Maurice Wren, Chief Executive, Refugee Council

Yasmine Ahmed, Director, Rights Watch (UK)

Kerim Yildiz, CEO, Democratic Progress Institute

Farook Yunus, Kumon Y'All

Alliance for Choice Northern Ireland

Discrimination Law Association

Migrant Voice

Northern Ireland Anti Poverty Network

Oak Foundation

****signed in personal capacity***