



IMPACT REPORT 2017

Prepared for the Summer AGM

INTRODUCTION

FROM ANDREW COPSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HUMANISTS UK

Welcome to the first Humanists UK *Impact Report*, our annual report for members to show just how far your subscriptions and donations go towards realising our shared vision of a tolerant society where rational thinking and kindness prevail.

As you'll see on these pages, these last 12 months have been an incredibly busy time for all involved in our movement, particularly for those involved in our community services work and our campaigns for secularism, equality, and human rights. Our public advocacy of humanism has stepped up a notch as well, after thousands of non-religious people across the country helped us produce an evidence-led case for a new look and feel for our organisation, to help us reach more of the 15 million non-religious people in Britain who live their lives by humanist values like empathy, reason, and kindness. Our new look, and our new identity as Humanists UK, is already opening doors for us and our membership numbers have been on a steady climb.

Despite challenging political circumstances and a British society that at times seems more divided than ever, I'm immensely proud of the work our members, volunteers, and small staff team are doing to enable more people to be happy, confident, and fulfilled in the one life we have.



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THINK FOR YOURSELF, ACT FOR EVERYONE

WHO WE ARE

We started out in 1896, and since then we've always been a movement at the forefront of social change.

Today, Humanists UK is backed by over 60,000 members and supporters, as well as over 70 local and special interest humanist groups, who infuse our work with energy, drive, and relentless optimism at every level. Their commitment and generosity allows us to promote free thinking and freedom of choice for everyone.

Our policies are formed with the support of more than 150 of the world's most prominent thinkers and experts, including scientists, philosophers, writers, academics, and public figures. We work to advance these policies with the help of more than 100 parliamentarians who are members of the All Party Parliamentary Humanist Group (APPHG).

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WHAT DO WE WANT?

- A world where everyone lives cooperatively on the basis of shared human values, respect for human rights, and concern for future generations
- To help non-religious people to be confident in living ethical and fulfilling lives on the basis of reason and humanity

WHAT DO WE DO?

- We promote humanism, work on behalf of the non-religious, and support those who wish to live humanist lives, including through the provision of humanist ceremonies
- We campaign for a secular state, challenge religious privilege, and promote equal treatment in law and policy of everyone regardless of religion or belief
- We offer a humanist perspective in public debate, drawing on contemporary humanist thought and the worldwide humanist tradition.



2017 SO FAR

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This report is full of information about what we've been up to, but for quick reference, here's a quick snapshot of our impact in 2017 so far.



10,300 pupils hearing a humanist school speaker; **53,000 views** on our teaching resources website



Over 40,000 people watching a recent Humanists UK lecture in person or on YouTube



74 hospitals and 12 prisons now have an official Humanists UK pastoral care representative




Over 50 million people seeing a Humanists UK story on Facebook or Twitter



More than 60,000 people signed up as supporters of Humanists UK



Over one million people attending a Humanists UK ceremony



Six major legal cases covering education reform, assisted dying, marriage law, and abortion rights



500 media mentions across newspapers, television, radio, and major online news publishers

PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING


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This has been a truly fantastic year for our work for greater understanding of humanism, and levels of online traffic for teaching resources to our *Understanding Humanism* website higher than they've ever been.

On top of that, we sent free copies of Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young's children's book *What is Humanism?* to schools across the UK, including every school in Wales and Northern Ireland; appeared at teaching conferences; delivered teacher training; and organised our own teachers' conferences.

We now have humanists sitting on 136 different councils' advisory panels, helping set their local religious studies curriculums, as well as 163 active school speakers across the country.

We also produced videos explaining humanist ceremonies starring Stephen Fry; exhibited at conferences, festivals, and other events across the UK; and expanded our dialogue programme, educating religious people about humanism while helping to promote social harmony.



We aim to arrive at a situation where humanism is understood as an ethical and fulfilling non-religious approach to life involving a naturalistic view of the universe

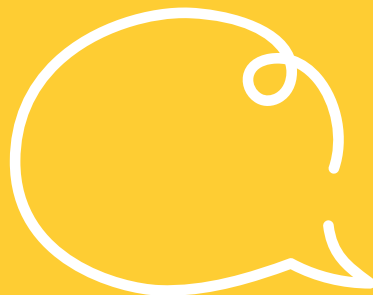
EVENTS AND LECTURES

GROWING ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES

Our public lecture series on humanist topics continues to grow each year, with this year's Darwin Day Lecture in London being attended by close to 2,000 people, who turned out to see Professor Lawrence Krauss chaired by Richard Dawkins for a discussion of 'Cosmic natural selection.' We also delved into political views of humanism, with Owen Jones in Manchester; the nature of the adolescent brain, with Sarah-Jayne Blakemore; and antibiotic resistance, with Professor Maggie



Smith in Leeds. Most recently, we heard a fantastic Voltaire Lecture on free speech and extremism from Nick Cohen, chaired by Shappi Khorsandi.



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HUMANISTS UK CONVENTION 2017

In June 2017, we held our largest ever Annual Convention in Cambridge, with 600 humanists attending entertaining talks, debates, lectures, and comedy sets from the likes of Shappi Khorsandi, Alf Dubs, Jim Al-Khalili, Paul Lamb, Kate Smurthwaite, Robin Ince, Sara Khan, Mark Lynas, and Helen Czerski. We're already eagerly looking forward to our next convention in Newcastle.



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WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Wales Humanists and Northern Ireland Humanists are our official sections helping to promote humanism, expand our community services, and lobby devolved governments in Wales and Northern Ireland respectively. Both sections have been busy with public debates, radio appearances, and local events around Wales and Northern Ireland.

Late in 2016, we were delighted to attend to host the official launch event for Wales Humanists at the Senedd, hosted by Julie Morgan AM, which was attended by Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones AM and Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood AM.

In 2017, we were thrilled to have Belfast Castle as the venue for the launch of Northern Ireland Humanists, with Northern Irish comedian and Humanists UK patron Tim McGarry speaking. Both were extremely well-attended.



HUMANIST LIVES

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STEPHEN FRY ANIMATION

Last winter, we released a new animated video from Stephen Fry all about humanist namings, weddings, and funerals.

Hand-drawn in a tender watercolour style, and fitted to original music, the advert was seen tens of thousands of times, and even attracted all-day coverage on Sky News, highlighting new research from YouGov which showed that one in seven people would like a humanist funeral when they die.



We aim to arrive at a situation where people with humanist beliefs and values are supported in identifying themselves as humanists and in expressing those beliefs and values in their lives

Our network of humanists working on the ground now includes 415 humanist celebrants and 146 non-religious pastoral carers who work across England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Islands.

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PASTORAL SUPPORT REVOLUTION

We're very proud of our progress in non-religious pastoral support, with our accredited carers providing like-minded non-religious care in times of crisis now recommended by both NHS England and the prison service. There are now paid humanist pastoral support representatives in hospitals and in the university sector. We take our duty of care to pastoral carers very seriously, and we have also created a system of supervision to provide our carers with like-minded pastoral support.



FAITH TO FAITHLESS

A major area of development for Humanists UK in recent months has been our growing offer of support for people who have left behind extreme or coercive religious backgrounds. Since January, the Faith to Faithless programme started by the ex-Muslim humanists Aliyah Saleem and Imtiaz Shams has

been part of Humanists UK.

Faith to Faithless offers direct peer support to isolated people from a range of backgrounds who may otherwise face total rejection from their families and communities. We're now working towards expansion of the service, including the offer of training to frontline crisis and support services on how they can better support so-called 'apostates'.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY

A REMARKABLY BUSY YEAR

HUMANIST MARRIAGE LEGAL CASE

ABORTION LAW REFORM CASES

OPPOSING RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

EXPOSING ILLEGAL SCHOOLS

CHALLENGING BLASPHEMY LAWS

HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE UN

SEX EDUCATION FOR ALL

ASSISTED DYING CAMPAIGNS

OPPOSING BISHOPS IN PARLIAMENT

AGAINST COMPULSORY WORSHIP

ENDING RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

AMPLIFYING THE NON-RELIGIOUS VOICE

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We aim to arrive at a situation where public debate and policy are shaped by humanist perspectives

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This year, we sent legal letters, took to the High Court, lobbied MPs and Lords, collaborated with journalists on exposés, supported whistleblowers, and published hard-hitting new research. We did this as part of our work for free thinking and freedom of choice so everyone can live in a fair and equal society.

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

One of our biggest achievements in 2017 was successfully putting pressure on Theresa May's government to introduce statutory relationships and sex education in all English schools, after months of ministers turning a blind eye to evidence which showed the necessity of introducing such legislation.

We worked at the heart of a coalition of charities and lobby groups working for just this, publishing hard-hitting research that made national headlines and encouraging MPs of all parties to back the policy. We now must ensure that this applies fully to all

schools, including 'faith' schools, and that it is fully LGBT-inclusive.



HELPING NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN

We intervened in two legal cases in Northern Ireland to extend women's abortion rights, supporting a young woman being prosecuted for having an abortion after being raped and, separately, challenging the practice of charging Northern Irish women for abortions on the English NHS. In the latter case, the Supreme Court found this was a political choice, so we petitioned Theresa May, Nicola Sturgeon, and Carwyn Jones to permit free abortions for Northern Ireland women on the NHS in England, Scotland, and Wales. Sturgeon said she was exploring the matter, and a group of English MPs attempted to allow this via the Queen's Speech.

We also continued our lobbying of Northern Ireland ministers right up until the collapse of the Northern Ireland Executive, and campaigned across the UK alongside a number of women's rights organisations to fully take abortion out of the criminal law across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales.

ASSISTED DYING

Three of our members have again been central to work to legalise assisted dying in the UK: paralysis sufferer Paul Lamb, multiple systems atrophy sufferer Omid, and motor neurone disease sufferer Noel Conway, who is also working with Dignity in Dying.

We supported all three in different ways, either through fundraising for their legal work, by working with our legal teams on our possible supportive interventions at a later stage in proceedings, or by creating materials we hope will help promote greater understanding in the House of Commons about the urgent need to allow people autonomy and choice over how and when they die.

AGAINST BLASPHEMY LAWS

We continued to robustly challenge blasphemy laws around the world, working with supportive voices in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and critiquing blasphemy laws in our appearances at the UN. As part



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of the End Blasphemy Laws coalition, we welcomed blasphemy law repeals from Malta, Alsace-Moselle, and Denmark. Our patron, Stephen Fry, became the subject of a blasphemy investigation in Ireland which prompted Canadian and New Zealand officials to table bills to repeal their blasphemy laws.

ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS

Elections may disrupt campaigning work, but they also create enormous opportunities to win support for our causes. We produced comparison grids, tables, and questions to email to candidates in UK, Northern Irish, and Welsh elections to help promote our agenda across a range of issues like Lords reform, 'faith' schools, and the right to die.

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

Our submission to the General Pharmaceutical Council's consultation on its code of practice resulted in a new, revised draft framework which meant that in future, religious pharmacists will not be able to discriminate against women buying the morning after pill, or any other medicine they refuse to sell on religious grounds, in situations where they are the only pharmacist available. Result!



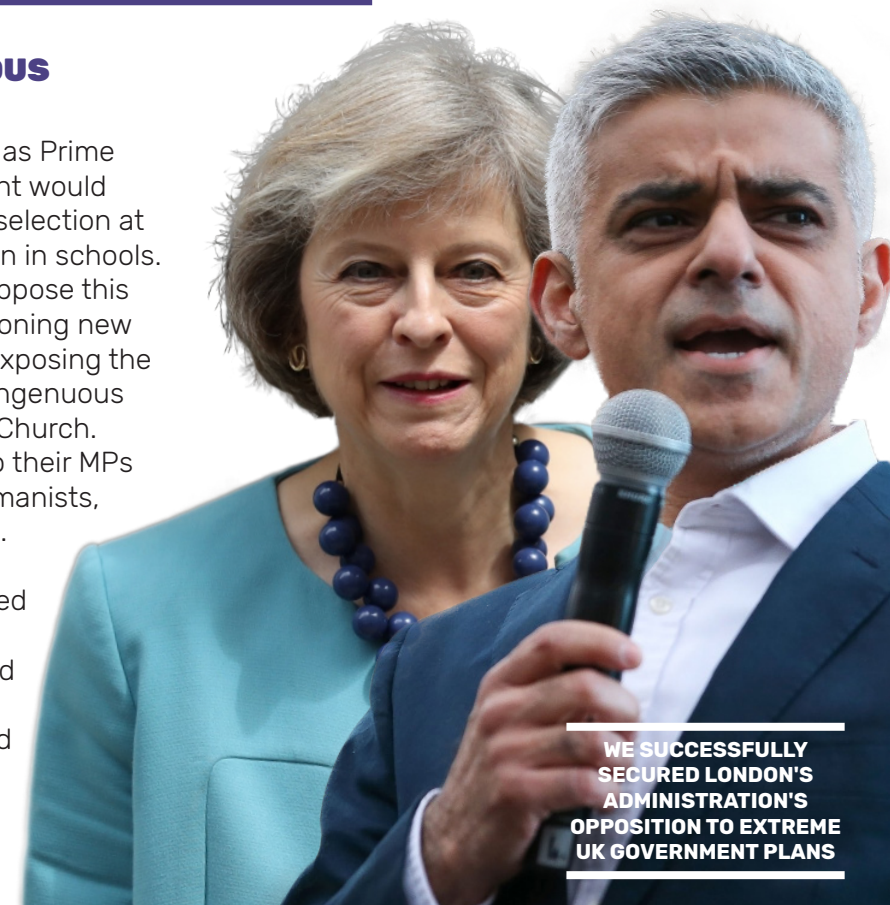
We aim to arrive at a situation where the UK is a secular state guaranteeing human rights, with no privilege or discrimination on grounds of religion or belief

OPPOSING PLANS FOR 100% RELIGIOUS SELECTION IN ENGLISH SCHOOLS

Last autumn, in her first policy announcement as Prime Minister, Theresa May promised the Government would abandon its commitment to capping religious selection at 50% to instead allow 100% religious segregation in schools. Hundreds of new members joined us to help oppose this disastrous policy and we set to work commissioning new research, parliamentary questions, and more exposing the dangers of this policy and highlighting the disingenuous justifications put forward for it by the Catholic Church.

We facilitated thousands of people to write to their MPs and petition the PM, alongside well-known humanists, education experts, and senior religious leaders. We also had the UK Statistics Authority tell off the Government for using misleading and biased figures in its official consultation. The London Assembly and the Mayor of London also backed a Humanists UK-supported motion to oppose the policy. Following the election, we continued lobbying to stop this dangerous plan, which evidence shows will worsen racial and economic segregation, from going ahead.

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WE SUCCESSFULLY
SECURED LONDON'S
ADMINISTRATION'S
OPPOSITION TO EXTREME
UK GOVERNMENT PLANS

WORK FOR LEGAL HUMANIST MARRIAGES

We prompted a legal case in Northern Ireland featuring humanist couple Laura Lacole (a model) and Eunan O'Kane (a Leeds United footballer) to have a legally binding humanist marriage there. We were successful and Laura and Eunan were legally married – a first for Northern Ireland – but an appeal by the civil service will be heard in September before we know if this will be extended out to future couples. If we're successful, we'll look to use the precedent established to bring legal humanist marriages to England and Wales as well.

We also directly lobbied the former UK Justice Secretary, Liz Truss, and drafted an order which the new Justice Secretary can sign at any time in order to give legal effect to humanist marriages in England and Wales.

UN REBUKES UK GOVERNMENT(S) FOLLOWING HUMANISTS UK SUBMISSION

We took part in the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's periodic review of the UK, which took up a number of our recommendations, including a rebuke of compulsory collective worship in schools across Britain and Northern Ireland. It also called for fully integrated schools in Northern

Ireland; compulsory sex and relationships education across the UK; and the decriminalisation of abortion in Northern Ireland in all circumstances. We also took part in the UN Human Rights Council's periodic review of the UK, which will soon be published.

'FAITH' SCHOOLS AND ILLEGAL SCHOOLS INVESTIGATIONS

In addition to our broader work highlighting the divisive, discriminatory, and doctrinaire character of both state-funded and private religious schools throughout the UK, we have continued our role as the only organisation actively campaigning

for greater action on illegal religious schools, the area of the education system that fails children more acutely than any other.

Earlier this year we convened the first ever meeting between Ofsted's illegal schools team and former pupils of such schools, a meeting attended by Ofsted's Chief Inspector, and our work has triggered the first ever inquiry by a local authority into the existence and malpractice of these schools. After decades of inaction and political inertia, progress is finally being made.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND

humanism

AT THE UNITED NATIONS

SINCE SUMMER 2016, WE'VE DELIVERED 15 STATEMENTS AT THE UN ON BLASPHEMY LAW, ABORTION RIGHTS, LGBT RIGHTS, THE REFUGEE CRISIS, AND MORE.

MARKS OF ESTEEM

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RHODRI MORGAN'S FUNERAL

Our patron of many years, former First Minister of Wales Rhodri Morgan, died earlier this year and made history with the UK (and possibly the world's) first ever state or ceremonial funeral led by a humanist. His tenure as First Minister contributed enormously to the secular character of Welsh politics. The funeral, which was conducted by Rhodri's friend and fellow former Assembly Member Lorraine Barrett, featured heartfelt tributes in English and Welsh and was broadcast online for the whole world to see.

and progression of values that Henri La Fontaine defended during his life. These span the promotion of peace, humanism, social justice, feminism, and self-examination.' The website reached the final selection of five finalists.

MAKING BRITAIN HAPPIER

Our volunteer, David Savage, was awarded a place among 50 Britons in the *Independent* newspaper's *Happy List*, celebrating individuals who made the country a happier place. David was included for all his pioneering work, over many years, to make non-religious pastoral care widely available in public institutions. That work continues, and to this day David still volunteers as a non-religious pastoral carer in Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospital.



INTERNATIONAL AWARD NOMINATION

Our teaching resources website *Understanding Humanism* was nominated for the Henri La Fontaine Prize for Humanism, which is 'intended to honor individuals, institutions or public or private bodies contributing significantly to the protection, spreading,



We aim to arrive at a situation where we are respected as an organisation for our expertise and professionalism and recognised as the national voice of humanism and a leading national voice for the non-religious and for secularism



We aim to arrive at a situation where we are an expanding, financially healthy and sustainable organisation with high standards of governance and management

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HUMANISTS IN BUSINESS

Following on from last year's successful launch of the PwC Humanist Network, we supported a brand new initiative called Humanists in Business, bringing captains of industry together to take part in the major ethical debates that are shaping business practices today. The launch of Humanists in Business, at PwC, was extremely well-attended by a diverse range of businesspeople from across the City of London and further afield.

LEGACY INCOME

In the last few years, gifts left to us in the wills of some of our members have helped us grow our staff team and expand our range of activities in ways which will help us continue to thrive and effect social change for years to come. This kind of donation can really transform an organisation for the better.

If you're intending to leave us a legacy when you die, please let us know by email, telephone, or post. Our contact details are on the back cover of this document.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Funds 2016			Funds 2015
	£ restricted	£ unrestricted	£ total	£ total
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from general funds				
Legacies and donations	180,293	656,699	836,992	982,720
Other trading activities	-	9,266	9,266	7,650
Investments	-	23,882	23,882	16,923
Incoming resources from charitable activities	5,286	767,903	773,189	696,051
Total incoming resources	185,579	1,457,750	1,643,329	1,703,344
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating income	-	(105,140)	(104,140)	(81,131)
Costs of charitable activities	(189,761)	(1,546,630)	(1,736,391)	(1,305,176)
Total resources expended	(189,761)	(1,651,770)	(1,841,531)	(1,386,307)
NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(RESOURCES EXPENDED) BEFORE TRANSFERS AND INVESTMENTS	(4,182)	(194,020)	(198,202)	317,037

OUR FULL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR IS AVAILABLE ON THE CHARITY
COMMISSION WEBSITE AND AT HUMANISM.ORG.UK/MEMBERS

	Funds 2016			Funds 2015
	£ restricted	£ unrestricted	£ total	£ total
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES <i>(continued)</i>				
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	74,214	74,214	(31,468)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(4,182)	(119,806)	(123,988)	285,569
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(4,182)	(119,806)	(123,988)	285,569
Balanced brought forward at 1 January	116,554	1,118,821	1,235,375	949,806
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER	112,372	999,015	1,111,387	1,235,375

SENIOR STAFF

Chief Executive Andrew Copson
Director of Public Affairs and Policy Richy Thompson
Director of Community Services Teddy Prout
Director of Operations Catriona McLellan
Communications Manager Liam Whitton

BANK

The Co-operative Bank plc
118-120 Colmore Row
Birmingham B3 3BA

AUDITORS

Messrs Knox Cropper
Chartered Accountants
8/9 Well Court
London EC3 9DN

LOVE ALL,

trust

**A FEW, AND
DO WRONG TO NONE.**