

pen

INTERNATIONAL

In numbers 2019



pen-international.org/who-we-are/governance/numbers

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Use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code and learn more about PEN International.

Welcome

2019 has been a year of growth for PEN International: in strength, in campaigning, in vision, in networking capacity. The United Nations proclaimed 2019 the *International Year of Indigenous Languages* and PEN celebrated with two major events. A meeting in Chiapas on translation and linguistic rights with the goal to promote all literatures without exception by *Writing the Future in Indigenous Languages*. The second was the PEN International Congress in Manila, under the banner *Speaking in Tongues: Literary Freedom and Indigenous Languages*, where the diversity of Filipino languages were experienced by all PEN delegates in the presence of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Fernand de Varennnes.

We evaluated the work for the whole period 2015–2019, which acknowledged that our international community is stronger than ever, thanks to multiplying our presence through the Civil Society Programmes and regional network meetings in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The protection of writers at risk in the face of an increasing number of authoritarian regimes and from the cruelty of non-state actors remains a critical area of our work. This was reaffirmed in May 2019 through the joint conference in *At Home Everywhere* held in Rotterdam with PEN's Writers in Prison Committee and the International Cities of Refuge Network.

On 5 October 1921, when writer Catherine Amy Dawson Scott gathered a small crowd of writers in the Florence restaurant in Soho to launch PEN, who could have imagined that it would grow into a network of more than 143 centres worldwide? Today PEN is present in more than one hundred countries across all continents, including representing Tibetan, Uyghur, North Korean, Vietnamese, Iranian, Cuban and Eritrean literatures in exile.

As PEN prepares for its 100th birthday in 2021 with the deep conviction that our tradition of networking, debating and joint campaigning to protect and promote free expression remains as vital today as it was one hundred years ago. As a global network of writers, we are strengthened in our mission promoting literature and freedom of expression in all corners of a world where too often writers face judicial harassment, hate speech, attacks on women's and minority voices and the daily violations of linguistic rights.

Who we are - History



PEN International was started in 1921 (then known simply as PEN) by **Catherine Amy Dawson Scott** as a way to unite writers after the devastation of World War I

Over nine decades we have become a genuinely international organisation, encompassing a wide array of cultures and languages, and today the overwhelming majority of PEN International's 143 Centres come from outside Europe. Women's rights are promoted by centers participation to PEN Women Writers Committee and PEN has promoted peace in countries like Bosnia, Mali, Afghanistan or Sierra Leone through its Writers for Peace Committee.

Our name was conceived as an acronym: **'Poets, Essayists, Novelists'** (later broadened to **'Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists, Novelists'**)



Members of PEN in our first years included Thomas Mann, Rabindranath Tagore, Victoria Ocampo and Tōson Shimazaki

In 1940, English PEN published its **'Appeal to the Conscience of the World'** letter, a passionate plea for the protection of freedom of expression **written by English PEN's first woman president, Storm Jameson** and co-signed by English writers including Vita Sackville-West, E.M. Forster, H.G. Wells, Vera Brittain, and Rebecca West

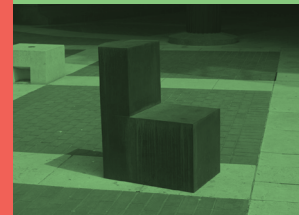


Joining with partners across the UK in the early 2000s, we **successfully campaigned for the protection of artistic freedoms** in response to the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006

...and what we stand for - (The Charter)

- **Literature**, knows no frontiers and must remain common currency among people in spite of political or international upheavals.
- **In all circumstances, and particularly in time of war**, works of art, the patrimony of humanity at large, should be left untouched by national or political passion.
- **Members of PEN should at all times use what influence they have in favour of good understanding and mutual respect** between nations and people; they pledge themselves to do their utmost to dispel all hatreds and to champion the ideal of one humanity living in peace and equality in one world.
- **PEN stands for the principle of unhampered transmission of thought within each nation** and between all nations, and members pledge themselves to oppose any form of suppression of freedom of expression in the country and community to which they belong, as well as throughout the world wherever this is possible. PEN declares for a free press and opposes arbitrary censorship in time of peace. It believes that the necessary advance of the world towards a more highly organised political and economic order renders a free criticism of governments, administrations and institutions imperative. And since freedom implies voluntary restraint, members pledge themselves to oppose such evils of a free press as mendacious publication, deliberate falsehood and distortion of facts for political and personal ends.
- **The Board:** The current governing board of PEN International is made up of our Executive Board consisting of International President, Jennifer Clement, International Secretary, Kätlin Kaldmaa, International Treasurer, Eric Lax, and seven other Board members.

There is a cast-iron sculpture entitled Witness by Antony Gormley, **marking our 90th anniversary**, standing outside the British Library in London



We were the first worldwide association of writers, and the first organisation to point out that freedom of expression and literature are inseparable

The first meeting of the PEN Club was held at the **Florence Restaurant in Soho on 5 October 1921**



Where we operate

143.

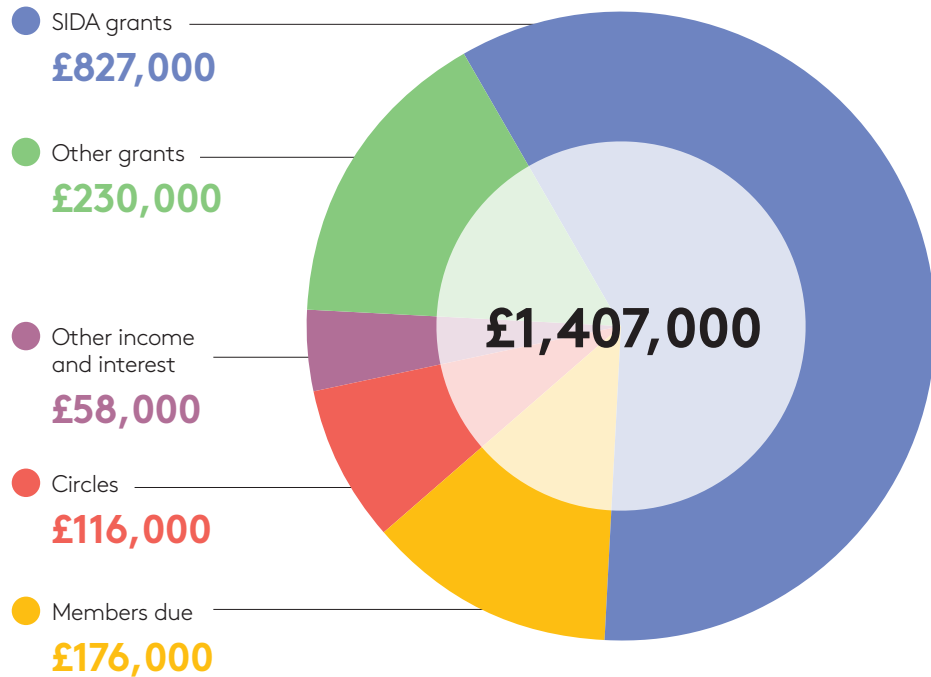
centres around the world, networked from London

- North America
- South America
- Europe
- Africa
- Asia
- Australia

Our income

January 2019 to December 2019

How our income was generated 2019



Our detailed, audited annual reports can be found at pen-international.org/who-we-are/governance/audited-accounts

Funders/Donors/Partners

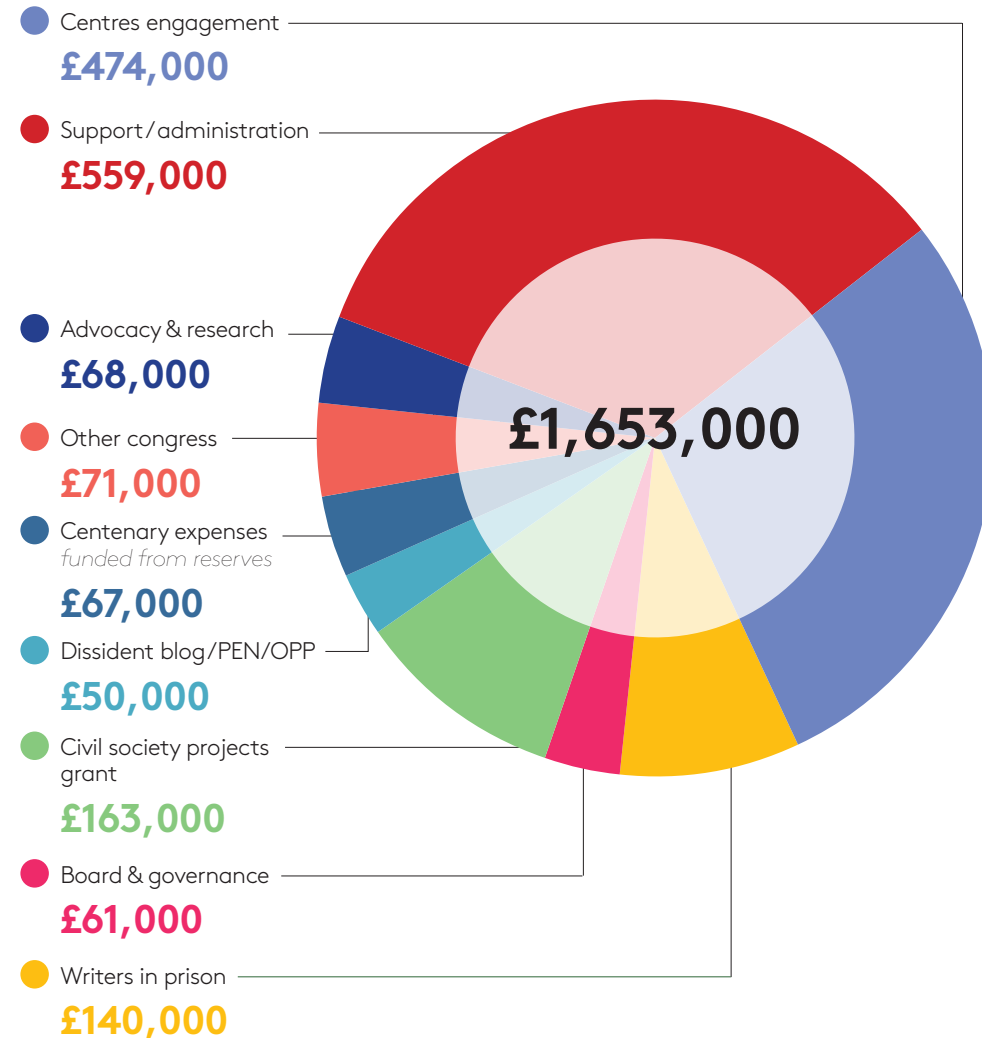
It is with a resounding thank you that we celebrate the incredible support of our generous donors, partners, and supporters. The continuous support of our funders has ensured our global influence and safeguarded our vital work with writers against increasing threats.

Our donors make a significant impact on our work. We are immensely grateful for any help we receive and rely on kind donations to deliver our civil society programmes and vital protection work. As always, PEN International's commitment to the promotion of literature and fight for freedom of expression would not be possible without the valued support of our donors across the world.

Our expenditure

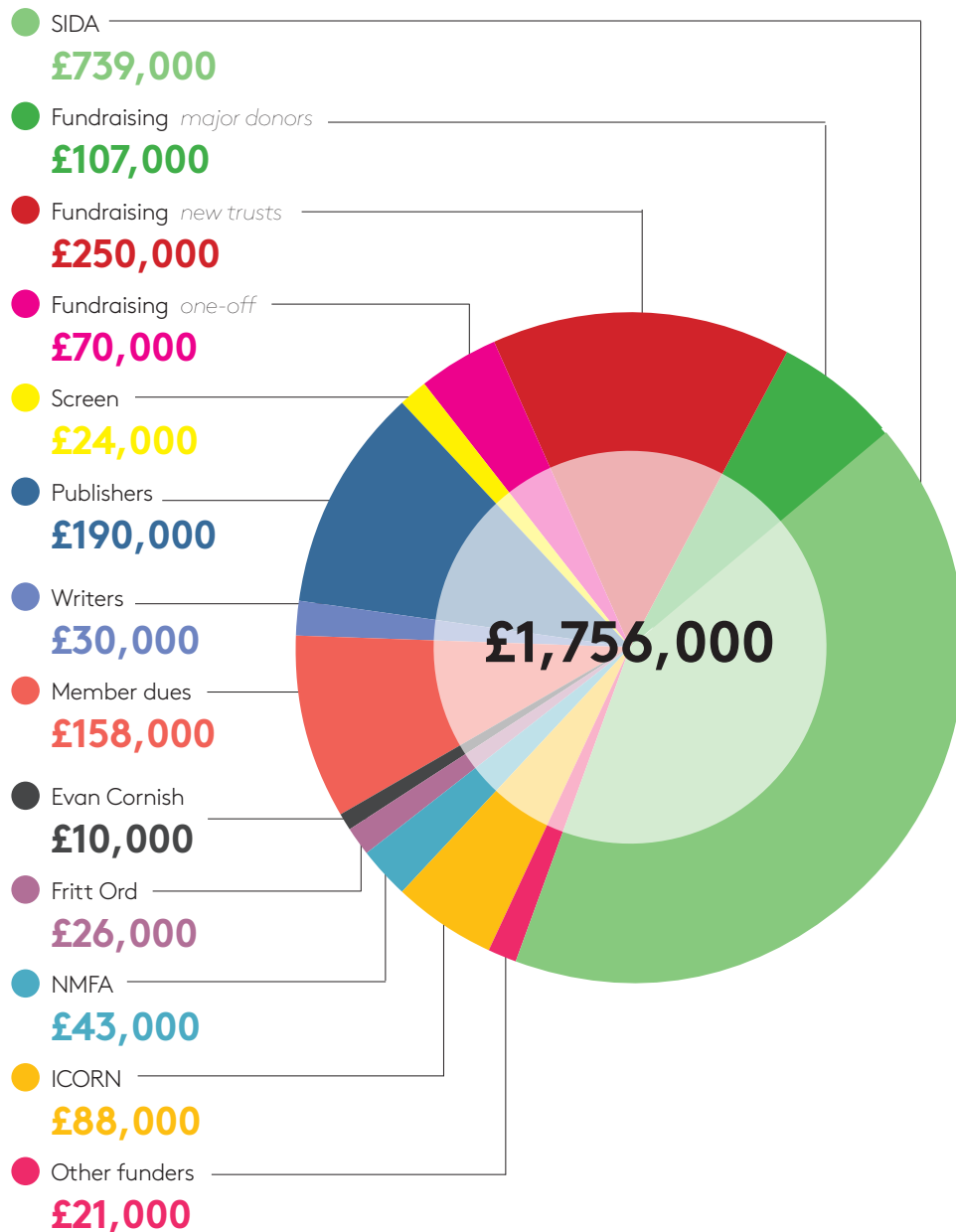
January 2019 to December 2019

How we used our income



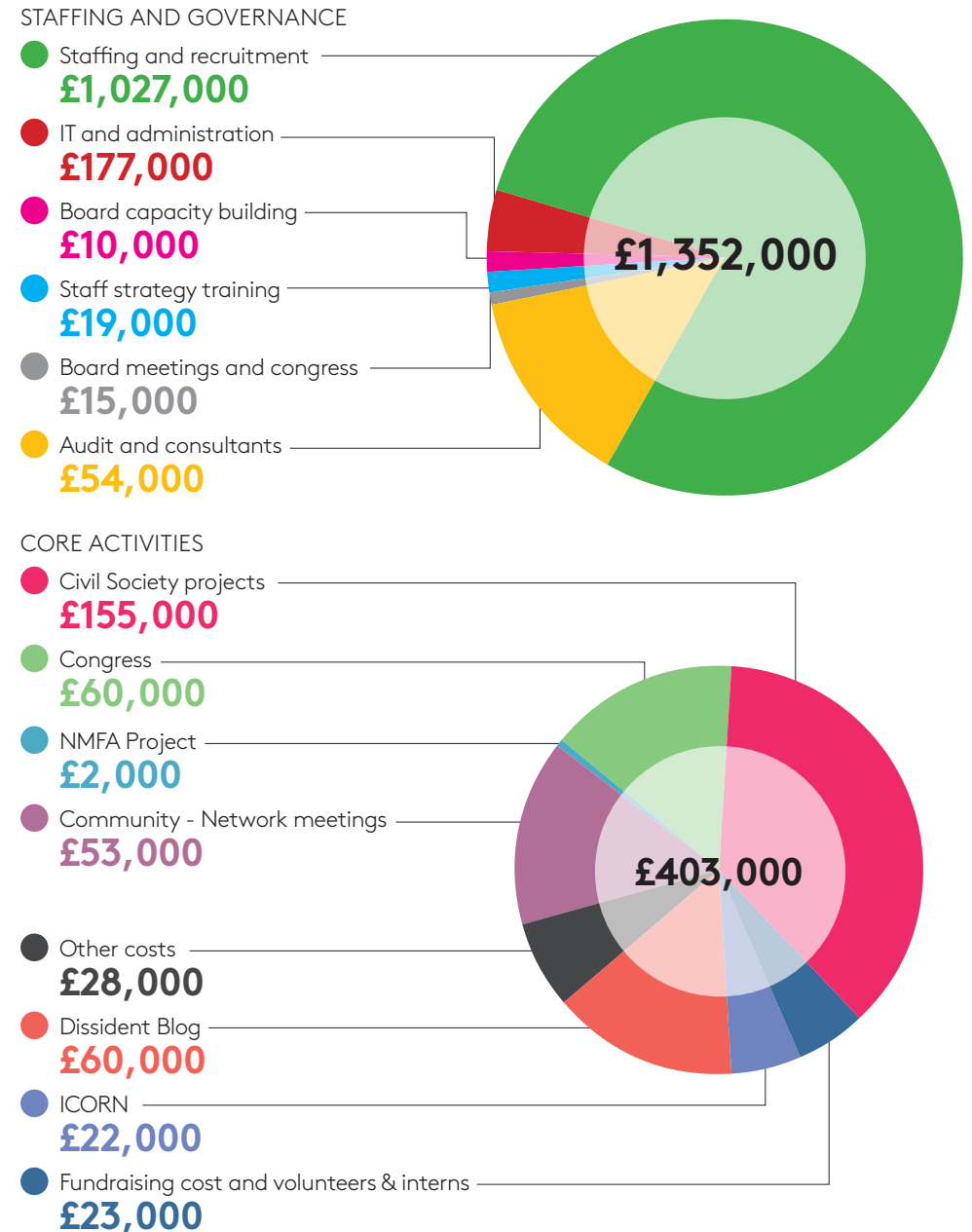
Our budgeted income for 2020

January 2020 to December 2020

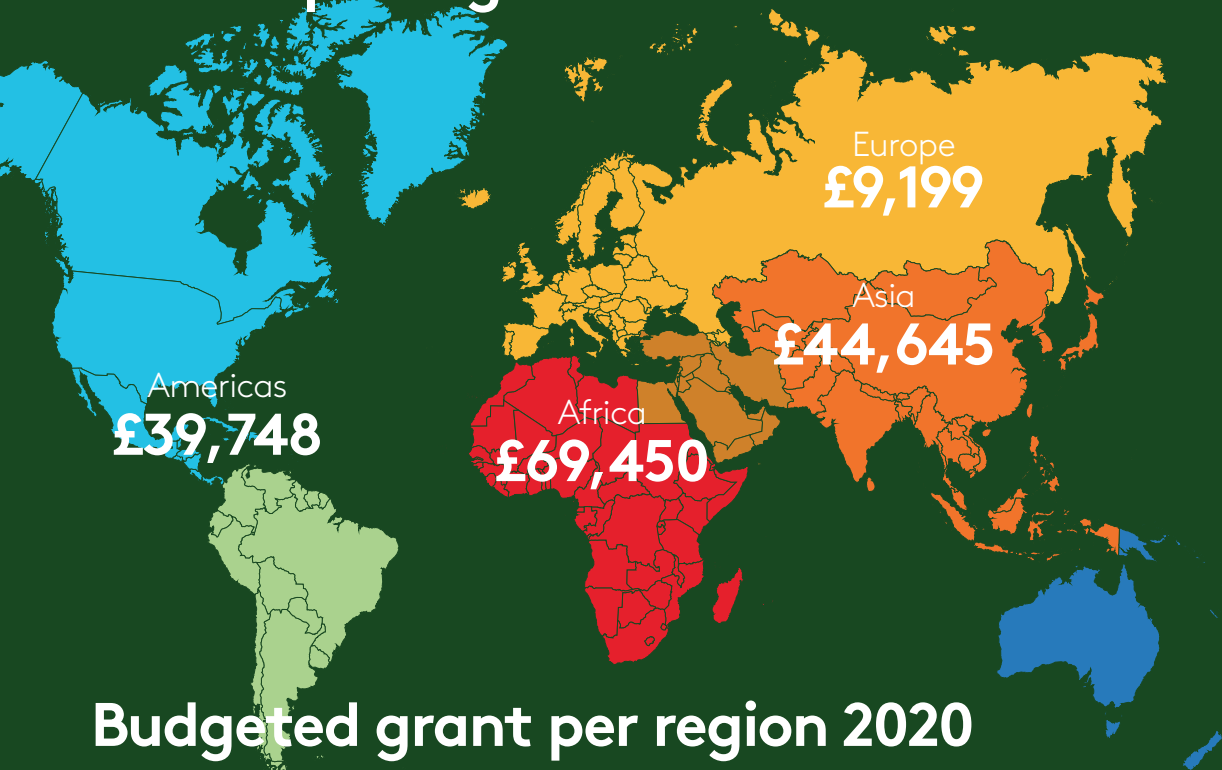


Our budgeted expenditure for 2020

January 2020 to December 2020



Grants per region 2019



Budgeted grant per region 2020

AFRICA		EUROPE	
Afrikaans	5,000	Bosnia	5,000
Eritrea	5,000	Ilkyaz Website	10,000
Nigeria	5,000	Creative witnesses	5,000
Sierra Leone	5,000	Total	20,000
South Africa	5,000	AMERICAS	
Zimbabwe	5,000	Argentina	5,000
Make space Uganda	15,000	Chile	5,000
Internet access for webinars	4,000	Guatemala	5,000
Total	49,000	Haiti	5,000
ASIA		Honduras	5,000
Afghanistan	5,000	Nicaragua	5,000
Bangladesh	5,000	Paraguay	5,000
Cambodia	5,000	Puerto Rico	5,000
Malaysia	5,000	San Miguel d'Allende	5,000
Myanmar	5,000	Uruguay	3,000
Total	25,000	Day of the dead	7,700
MENA		Total	55,700
Iraq	5,000		
Total	5,000		

Highlights per region 2019

AFRICA

- PEN Eritrea in Exile, PEN Uganda and PEN Togo increased their capacity to reach and attract diverse audiences leading to greater participation in activities and events.
- PEN Uganda runs creative workshops for prisoners in some of the highest security male and female prisons in the country.
- PEN Eritrea in Exile is running a project called 'breaking the silence' focused on supporting exiled Eritrean writers to tell their stories.

ASIA

- Afghan PEN has been supporting and promoting girls and women literature and more than 100 people participated in one of their events, 45 percent of which were girls and women.

EUROPE

- PEN International takes part in a joint advocacy mission to Turkey in September. The report is launched during a public discussion in Brussels where mission members present their findings to EU leaders and policy makers on how the EU can best engage to support the plight of Turkey's journalists
- The Dissident Blog is rebranded as PEN/Opp at Congress in Manila, Philippines

AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

- PEN Argentina ran a project aimed at indigenous language promotion in schools. Another project focused on sharing literature across communities.
- PEN Haiti created a website for the PEN Centre, helping attract new, young membership.
- PEN Centres mark Day of the Dead with a range of activities, remembering journalists who have been killed

GLOBAL

- In December 2019, to mark Human Rights Day, fifteen PEN Centres from the Global South wrote a series of articles on the freedom of expression situation in their respective countries. Several held public panel events to explore these issues and mark the day.
- Consultation and planning results in PEN International's strategy 2020 to 2023, an evolutionary development that will bring PEN through its centenary year.

2020 Civil society projects update

Due to the unprecedented and devastating impact of the Coronavirus Covid 19, with the world in lockdown or living with social distancing, many PEN projects and events have been seriously disrupted. As in-person literary events, meetings and trainings were not possible in 2020, PEN International took the opportunity to reallocate its resources under the Civil Society Programme to invest in the communications and online presence of its Centres notably in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Modest grants have been provided to 24 PEN Centres who have developed online activities which seek to engage new audiences.

The grants are intended to support PEN Centres to grow their digital presence and voice, through a range of activities webinars, lectures, literary readings, online tutorials, interviews and podcasts using Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, SoundCloud, mobile apps, Centre websites and other platforms. We are delighted that so many Centres shared their ideas on how they are combining literary events with PEN's freedom of expression concerns and highlighting PEN's global themes, for example using our PEN manifestos (e.g. Women's Manifesto, Girona Manifesto) to stimulate debate and reach wider audiences.

Key achievements 2019

32

PEN Emergency Fund grants were given to writers facing immediate risk, supporting 10 writers with medical treatment, five with accommodation and living costs and a further 17 with relocation, travel and subsistence.

PEN's research and advocacy successfully supported

5

asylum applications from writers threatened with deportation or stranded in refugee camps

Assessment of over

116

applications to the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) led to successful residency placements for 22 writers

The lives of

96

writers at risk have markedly improved through a range of initiatives including solidarity actions and campaigning, legal interventions and humanitarian assistance



79%

of writers who saw positive changes in their situation said that the solidarity provided was important to them.

14

writers released from prison in part as a result of PEN's campaigning.

42

indigenous language writers (Innu, Tzeltal, Tzotzil, Maya, Zoque, Ch'ol, Mam, Mè'phàà, Náhuatl, Quechua, Mapudungun, Aymara, Bikol) joined 17 PEN Centres in Chiapas, Mexico, for the Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee Meeting, creating new platforms to amplify the voices of indigenous literatures.

7,055

young people, writers, journalists, academics, teachers, parents, community members and human rights activists have been engaged in spaces created by PEN Centres around the world.

14

PEN Centre projects have opened spaces for young people to express themselves creatively and critically



26

PEN Centres took action on the Day of the Imprisoned Writer, 15 November 2019

Since the launch of the new website in October 2019, **PEN/Opp** (previously named the **Dissident Blog**) has increased the number of readers by

20%

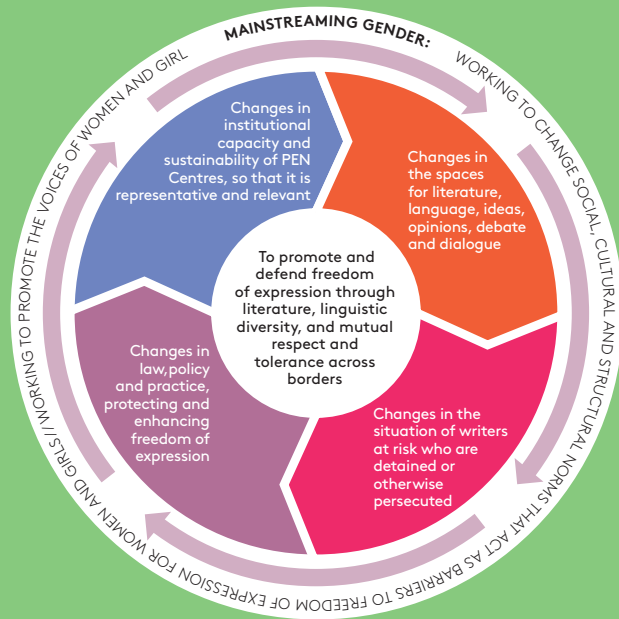
IMPACT

- **14 writers released from prison**, with a further eight being acquitted or having charges dropped, following PEN campaigns
- Kurdish journalist, painter and poet, **Zehra Doğan**, is released after spending more than 500 days behind bars and warmly thanks PEN for its solidarity campaign
- A PEN delegation presents the report **Russia's strident stifling of free speech 2012-2018** to Russia's Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights, which pledges to cooperate with the organisation
- **New PEN Centres** in Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Moscow, Perth, and Cape Verde are set up

IMPACT

- Ukrainian writer and filmmaker **Oleg Sentsov is released from prison** after spending five years behind bars
- **Yirgalem Fisseha Mebrhatu receives the inaugural PEN Eritrea Freedom of Expression Award** at the International PEN/ICORN network meeting
- **Liu Xia**, the Chinese poet, writer and PEN member, is finally allowed to board a plane to Germany, following an eight-year-long unofficial house arrest
- **İlkyaz – a platform for young writers in Turkey – launches** with the support of PEN International, PEN Turkey and Norwegian PEN

Theory of change



Outcomes

Support civil society to be creative and critical, so that it can influence policy and practice	Defend freedom of expression and promote literature by improving the situation of writers at risk	Enhance freedom of expression across the globe by influencing law, policy and practice	Build the capacity of PEN Centres, Secretariat and Board to deliver the strategic plan 2020 to 2023
Increased inclusive spaces exist for literature and language to flourish Increased platforms exist for marginalised language writers Increased access to literature exists for young, diverse and marginalised writers	The situation of writers at risk is improved by PEN's direct assistance, solidarity, advocacy and campaigning Displaced writers are given a platform and connected with professional networks, allowing them to continue with their work The voices of displaced writers are heard in global migration debates	Duty bearers are receptive to PEN's demands for improvements to FOE policy and practice Counter-act negative impacts and promote freedom of expression in PEN's thematic areas (hate speech, linguistic rights and gender equality) by contributing to ongoing societal debates Writers have resources and networks required to support them in tackling PEN's thematic areas	Increased capacity of the board to provide leadership & insight to PEN International (PI) Increased capacity of the committees to provide direction and expertise to PI and membership Increased capacity of Secretariat staff to deliver and develop strategic plan 2020-23 Centres have increased capacity to be strong civil society actors and advocates for freedom of expression

Activities

Supporting Centre-led projects Supporting <i>Free the Word!</i> events Coordinating regional campaigns Establishing indigenous language PEN Centres	Assessing applications for residency placements and one-off grants for writers at risk Providing asylum support Leading and supporting international campaigns Advocacy Developing regional capacity for protection of writers	Advocacy Coordinating outreach events Holding workshops Supporting public panel events Developing toolkits	Developing and delivering strategies Delivering trainings Coordinating regional and international network meetings Supporting PEN Centres Strengthening committees Diversifying funding
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Stakeholders

Writers, community actors, partners, donors, civil society organisations, policy makers, national governments, international institutions, sister human rights organisations, cultural organisations, publishers, the media, universities

Who we are

PEN International is a grassroots movement, made up of more than 20,000 writers from across the globe who are members of 143 PEN Centres, working together to defend freedom of expression and promote literature. One of the peculiarity of PEN International is also being cross-organized on 4 Committees, the Writers in Prison Committee, the Translation & Literary Rights Committee, the Women Writers Committee and the Writers for Peace Committee.

Strategy

Areas of influence: what we'll change

Improve the situation of writers at risk, who are imprisoned or otherwise persecuted	Create spaces for literature, language, debate, dialogue, ideas and opinions	Challenge structural threats to freedom of expression
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Our highest priorities: where we'll work

Promoting Freedom of Expression for women and minority groups	Countering hate speech	Promoting Translation and Linguistic Rights
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How we'll change as an organisation

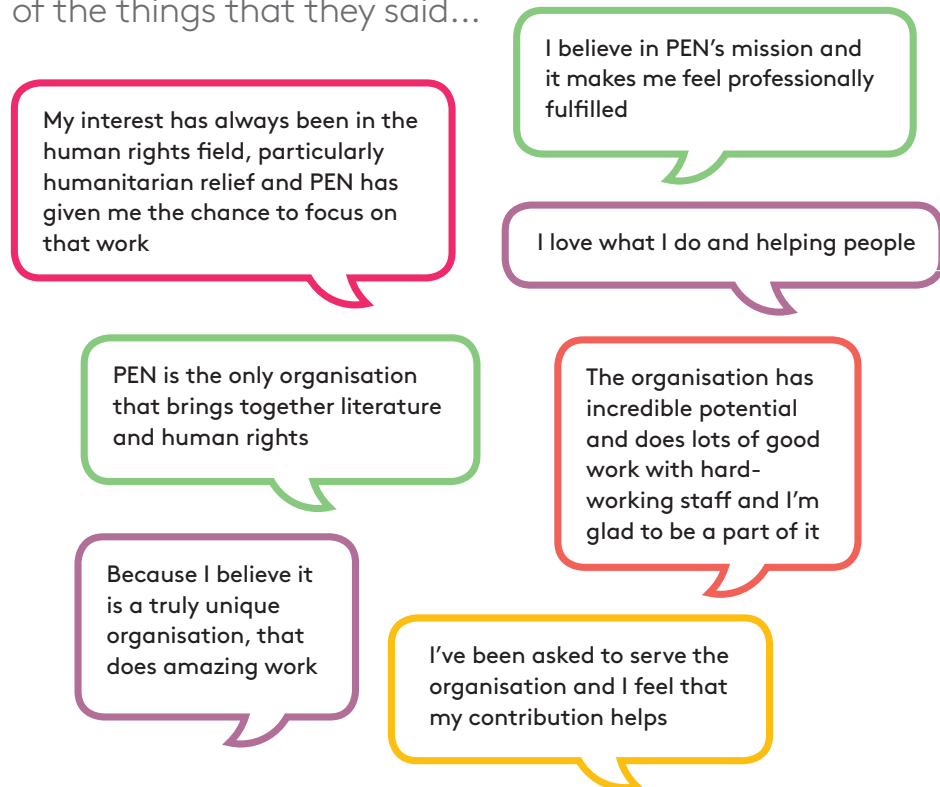
Strengthen the institutional capacity and sustainability of PEN	Diversify our funding	Strengthen and refine our civil society programme	Enhance our communications
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Our values

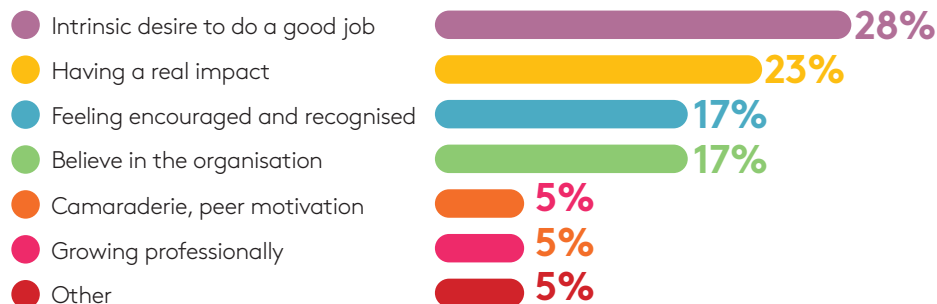
Solidarity • Expanding understanding • Fostering empathy • Cultural diversity
Creativity • Accountability • Transparency • Collaboration

Why work for PEN

We asked our colleagues why they chose to work for PEN International. Here's some of the things that they said...



Our biggest motivators for working at PEN...



In 2020 we shall...

- ... prepare **100 assessments** for writers persecuted for their work and seeking to relocate for short term residencies with the International Cities of Refugee
- ... provide up to **50 emergency grants** for writers at risk and actively campaign for those imprisoned or facing judicial harassment
- ... continue to advocate for the protection and strengthening of free expression policy and practice across the world
- ... publish our unique **Case List** which records over 250 cases of writers who are persecuted and imprisoned for their writing
- ... support up to **25 PEN Centres** across the Global South with bespoke expertise and small grants to support digital inclusion and to promote their on line presence
- ... provide **skills training** to our members through a series of 10 interactive webinars
- ... complete PEN's historic centenary digital archive which will launch PEN's centenary year
- ... hold online literary events and interactive free expression panels at our four online Committee meetings
- ... hold our first digital Congress and welcome four new Centres to the PEN family

...as well as increasing our fundraising efforts

PEN International relies on voluntary donations and grants to be able to deliver its wide-ranging activities across five continents, as well as the crucial membership fees from Centres and our work with strategic partners. Our far-reaching and ambitious Civil Society Programme is supported by a grant from the Swedish International Development Agency, but one of the conditions is that we find matched funding from elsewhere.

In 2020 a new strategy has been developed in order to protect our work into the future and to address the risk of relying on a small number of funding sources. We hope that our Centenary in 2021 will provide the impetus and opportunities to diversify our funding streams, and to raise much more awareness and support of the work of PEN internationally.

We have achieved much in our 100 year history, but there are many challenges ahead, many global threats to freedom of expression, and many writers who are persecuted, imprisoned or silenced, who need the solidarity of the PEN movement. We can only help, only raise awareness, only campaign, only fight for change, if we have financial stability.

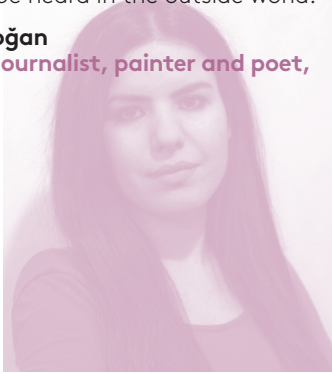
To that end, we will be fundraising for the essential but largely 'behind the scenes' work of the Protection and Research teams. We will be fundraising in order to continue our support of committee activities. We will be fundraising for the crucial but largely hidden work of our finance and admin teams. We will be fundraising to ensure the continuation of our Congress and other events. We will be fundraising to secure the work of our staff across the regions to support hundreds of local initiatives. We will be fundraising in order to support our Centres and to make PEN strong.

Some words of hope and thanks

“

I was stronger than I ever was on the outside. I thank you for the attention you paid to each sentence that I wrote and to your support which allowed my voice to be heard in the outside world.

Zehra Doğan
Kurdish journalist, painter and poet,



“

I thank you immensely for giving me a place in the campaign you are running with a thousand efforts and labour. Just as yesterday, your support and solidarity continues to be a respite for me. I am grateful! Don't go missing, please. Your efforts are invaluable in being the voice of the voiceless... On this iron bunk bed, your solidarity will continue to be beside me, I believe this wholeheartedly.

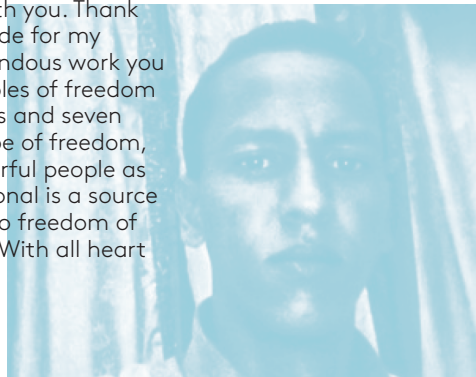
Nedim Türfent
Turkish journalist and poet,
Van High Security Prison, Turkey



“

I was released from jail on 29 July 2019, and since that day I am looking for a way to communicate with you. Thank you very much for the efforts you have made for my freedom, and for the wonderful and tremendous work you are doing every day to establish the principles of freedom of opinion and expression. For the five years and seven months I spent in prison, I held out the hope of freedom, because I am sure that having such wonderful people as you and an organisation like PEN International is a source of hope for me and everyone who aspires to freedom of opinion, thought, expression and writing... With all heart ... A thousand thanks to PEN International.

Mohamed Cheikh Ould Mkhaitir
Mauritanian blogger



“

I'm deeply thankful the PEN/Opp, for the opportunity to publish the feeling-thinking from the Mayan Tsotsil culture, write and declare to readers and listeners of different cultures, it is an opportunity and a struggle for linguistic, cultural survival and the urgency to produce a change in behaviour in intercultural relations between peoples and nations in friction.

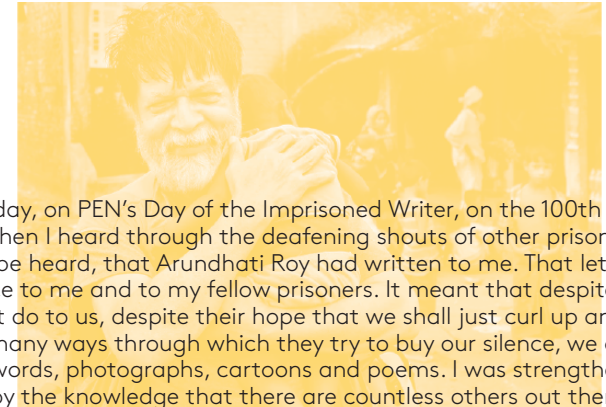
Manuel Bolom Pale
Tsotsil writer from Chiapas, Mexico



“

It was on this very day, on PEN's Day of the Imprisoned Writer, on the 100th day I was behind bars, when I heard through the deafening shouts of other prisoners also trying to hear and be heard, that Arundhati Roy had written to me. That letter made a world of difference to me and to my fellow prisoners. It meant that despite what governments might do to us, despite their hope that we shall just curl up and be quiet, despite the many ways through which they try to buy our silence, we continue to speak, through words, photographs, cartoons and poems. I was strengthened, as I hope you will be, by the knowledge that there are countless others out there who continue to stand by our side. Come what may.

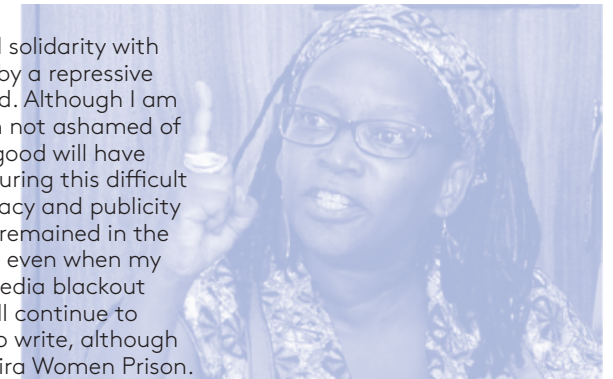
Shahidul Alam
Bangladeshi photographer and writer



“

I thank PEN for the sustained solidarity with me. Although I am detained by a repressive dictatorship, I am not isolated. Although I am punished for my writing, I am not ashamed of my crime. Your support and good will have consoled and enthused me during this difficult season of my life. Your advocacy and publicity ensured that my story firmly remained in the limelight and on the agenda, even when my country instituted a public media blackout about my imprisonment. I will continue to boldly exercise my freedom to write, although I am still locked up inside Luzira Women Prison.

Dr. Stella Nyanzi
Ugandan academic, writer and activist



“

PEN is an international organisation with a wide network around the world that has done a lot of work in this area. PEN has developed declarations and other documents in this field and therefore has increased awareness in terms of the rights of minorities – particularly linguistic rights – that I find helpful in my work as UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues.

Fernand de Varennes
United Nations Special Rapporteur
on minority issues



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