



**June 2019**

### **The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust appoints new chief executive**

THE Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) is delighted to announce the appointment of Celia McKeon as its new chief executive.

Celia has been appointed to oversee an exciting period of development for JRCT, following a decision to significantly increase annual grant spending to over £10 million.

She will take over from trust secretary Nick Perks, who announced earlier this year that he would be stepping down from the role after seven years.

Celia is currently a co-founder and coordinator of the peacebuilding network Rethinking Security and previously worked as assistant trust secretary at the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for seven years.

Before this, she was a policy director at the international peacebuilding organisation Conciliation Resources and a Quaker representative supporting local peacebuilding initiatives in the Balkans.

Celia said: "I am delighted to have been entrusted with this role. The Trust's charitable grant-making contributes to some of the country's most inspiring and effective social justice initiatives, and its responsible investment strategy continually breaks new ground.

"It will be an honour to work with the trustees and staff to build on the Trust's rich history, and to continue to explore how best to exercise the privileges of being an endowed foundation in ways that support transformative change. I look forward to leading the organisation through its next phase of development."

Celia will start her new role in September, and will be the first female chief executive in the Trust's 115 year history.

Helen Carmichael, chair of trustees, said: "We are thrilled to confirm Celia as our new chief executive. Celia's experience and strong track record on strategy, grant-making, leadership and communications are exceptional and her values align well with the Trust.

“Celia was one of a strong field of candidates. Her passion and commitment to making a difference was evident throughout the recruitment process and has been demonstrated consistently throughout her career.

“We are very excited by this new appointment as the Trust embarks on a period of growth and we look to shape the future with an increased spend and opportunities to reach and support organisations in new ways. We’re confident Celia will be excellent in this role.

“We’re extremely grateful to Nick for his work steering JRCT so capably for the last seven years. His most recent work to lead the Trust through its decennial review has been crucial to planning our strategy for the future and leaves us in a strong position to hand over to a very worthy successor.”

JRCT is a Quaker trust which supports people who are working to address the root causes of conflict and injustice, to build a fairer and more peaceful world.

JRCT supports work to produce positive change through its charitable work in five programme areas: peace and security, rights and justice, power and accountability, sustainable future and Northern Ireland.

Earlier this year JRCT announced plans to significantly increase its grant spending from around £7 million per year, to over £10 million per year, for the next ten years.

JRCT will work to increase the number of grants given to organisations outside London to achieve a greater geographical diversity of funding across the UK.

The Trust will also seek to increase its impact by offering some larger and longer grants, and by making more core cost grants to charities.

**Notes:**

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) ([www.jrct.org.uk](http://www.jrct.org.uk)) is an entirely separate organisation from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation ([www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)) and Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust ([www.jrrt.org.uk](http://www.jrrt.org.uk)).

**Media contact: Kate Gradwell, communications officer, 01904 627810**  
[kate.gradwell@jrct.org.uk](mailto:kate.gradwell@jrct.org.uk)