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.
Lord Alderdice

Clare Algar, CEO, Reprieve

Lord Des Browne of Ladyton

Prof Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Author, columnist and academic

Robin Allen QC, Head of Chambers, Cloisters

Alan Anstead, Coordinator, UK Race and Europe Network

Amanda Ariss, Chief Executive, Equality and Diversity Forum

Michael Attenborough CBE

David Atwood

Jennifer Barraclough, Clerk of Trustees, Britain Yearly Meeting (Quakers)

Robert Barrington, Executive Director, Transparency International UK

Robert L Barry, US Ambassador (Ret)

Moritz Bartl, Executive Director, Renewable Freedom Foundation

Susi Bascon, Director, Peace Brigades International UK Section

Maggie Baxter OBE

General Sir Hugh Beach, GBE KCB MC, President, VERTIC

Richard Bickle, Chair of Trustees, Fellowship of Reconciliation (England)

Prof Robert Blackburn*, King's College London

Sir Christopher Bland, former Chairman, BBC

Alexandra Bosbeer, Representative and Head of Office, Quaker Council for European Affairs

Sir Nicolas Bratza, Chair of Trustees, British Institute of Human Rights

Prof Philip Brown*, University of Salford

Prof Tom Burke, Founding Director, E3G

Andy Carl, Executive Director, Conciliation Resources
Carla Carnelas, Co-Director, Children's Rights Alliance for England

Candia Carolan, Chair, HT and LB Cadbury Charitable Trust

David Carrington

Lynn Carvill, Reclaim the Agenda

John Christensen, Executive Director, Tax Justice Network

Sarah-Jayne Clifton, Director, Jubilee Debt Campaign

Sarah Cooke OBE

Frances Crook, Chief Executive, Howard League for Penal Reform

Jeremy Crook OBE, Black Training and Enterprise Group

Marilyn Croser, Director, CORE Coalition

Niall Crowley, Claiming Our Future

C.J. Day, Chair of Directors, Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust

Rt Revd Michael Doe, Chair, Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility

Dr Paul Dorfman*, The Energy Institute, University College London

Dr John Downer*, University of Bristol

Mary Dowson, Director, Bradford Community Broadcasting

Lindsay Duncan

Judy El Bushra, Consultant

David Elliott*, Emeritus Professor, Open University

Fiona Ellis, Trust Manager, Millford House Foundation

Dr Scilla Elworthy

Duncan Exley, Executive Director, Equality Trust

Dr Ben Fairweather*, Senior Research Fellow, De Montfort University

Seamus Farrell, Towards Understanding and Healing
Liz Fekete, Director, Institute of Race Relations
Dr Simon Fisher*, Oxford Brookes University
Don Flynn, Director, Migrants Rights Network
Bridget Foreman, Associate Director, Riding Lights Theatre Company
Dr Diana Francis, Consultant
Maurice Frankel, Director, Campaign for Freedom of Information
Norman Franklin, Jill Franklin Trust
Doru Franscescu, Director, VoteWatch
Richard Garside, Director, Centre for Crime and Justice Studies
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Pete Gill, Chair of Trustees, Omega Research Foundation
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John D Gray, Consultant
Prof Paul Gready*, Director, Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York
Andy Gregg, Chief Executive, Race on the Agenda
Nick Grono, CEO, The Freedom Fund
Dr Sara Hageman*, European Institute, London School of Economics
Prof Brandon Hamber*, Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, Ulster University
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Brian Harvey, Consultant
Richard Hawkins, Director, Public Interest Research Centre
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Gerri McAndrew, Chief Executive, Buttle UK for Children and Young People
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Jen McClelland, Appletree Fund
Andrew McCracken, Chief Executive, Community Foundation for Northern Ireland
Janette McKnight, Director, Quaker Service, Belfast
Oliver McTernan, Director, Forward Thinking
Bharat Mehta OBE, Chief Executive, Trust for London
Prof Ian Miles*, Professor of Technological Innovation and Social Change, Manchester Institute of Innovation Research
Dr Laura Miller, Executive Director, Synchronicity Earth
Prof David Miller*, University of Bath
Christopher Mitchell*, Emeritus Professor of Conflict Research, George Mason University

Emma Mlotshwa, Coordinator, Medical Justice

Gay Moon, Special Legal Adviser, Equality and Diversity Forum

Judith Moran, Director, Quaker Social Action

Dr Duncan Morrow*, University of Ulster

Gemma Mortensen, Executive Director, Crisis Action

Fiyaz Mughal OBE, Founder and Director, Faith Matters

Rachel Mullen, Coordinator, The Equality and Rights Alliance

Alys Mumford, Campaign Director, Jubilee Scotland

Paul Murphy, Executive Director, Saferworld

Joe Murray, Action from Ireland

Patrick Mutzenberg, Centre for Civil and Political Rights

Michael Norton, Director, Centre for Innovation in Voluntary Action

Richard Norton-Taylor, Journalist

Orla O'Connor, Director, National Women's Council of Ireland

Christopher G. Oechsli, President & CEO, Atlantic Philanthropies

Monina O'Prey, Community Development Activist,

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Prof Gillian Robinson*, Ulster University

Allison Rogers, Chair of Trustees, West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project

Roger Ross, Trustee, Serve All Trust

Carne Ross, Executive Director, Independent Diplomat

Albie Sachs, former judge on the Constitutional Court of South Africa,

Gerry Salole, Chief Executive, European Foundation Centre

Natalie Samarasinghe, Executive Director, United Nations Association UK

Philip Sanders, Chair of Trustees, Philamonic Trust

Christine Shepherd, Chief Officer, York Travellers Trust

Sarah Shoraka, Platform

Elizabeth Sigmund*, Environmental campaigner

Paddy Sloan, former co-optee JRCT Ireland Committee, former Deputy Chair, Charity Commission for Northern Ireland

Caroline Slocock, Director, Civil Exchange

Gillian Slovo

Dan Smith, Secretary General, International Alert

Matthew Spencer, Director, Green Alliance

Sarah Spencer CBE
Siobhan Spencer MBE, National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
Prof Andy Stirling*, University of Sussex
Janet Susman DBE
Luc Tayat De Borms, Managing Director, King Baudoin Foundation
Steve Thomas*, Professor of Energy Policy, University of Greenwich
Khatuna Tsintsadze, Project Manager, Zahid Mubarek Trust
Kate Turner, Director, Healing Through Remembering
Tony Venables, Founder, Foundation on European Citizenship
Natasha Walter, Women for Refugee Women
Lee Waters, Director, Institute of Welsh Affairs
Baroness Janet Whitaker
Rob Williamson, Chief Executive, Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland
Carolyne Willow, Author
Maurice Wren, Chief Executive, Refugee Council
Yasmin 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