

Promoting literature and  
defending freedom of expression.

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# P.E.N. in numbers 2021

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

# welcome.

PEN International is recognised as the world's foremost association of writers and as a leading expert on freedom of expression. In 2021, we celebrated our Centenary, one hundred years of promoting literature and defending free expression. Global events brought into sharp focus the continuing urgent demand for our work and solidarity.

Highlights of our Centenary celebrations included a weeklong Congress with public events featuring PEN Member-writers Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie and Orhan Pamuk, amongst many others, with the participation of PEN members from over 80 countries worldwide. We welcomed PEN Greece and PEN Chiapas – our second indigenous language Centre – to the movement. We published PEN International: An Illustrated History, the extraordinary story of how PEN placed the celebration of literature and the defence of free speech at the centre of humanity's struggle against repression for one hundred years. To accompany the book, we also launched a digital exhibition of PEN's Archive Collection which documents the history of the organisations through documents collected from over 90 PEN Centres around the world.

Our celebrations, however, were bittersweet. The ongoing assault on pro-democracy and cultural actors saw our PEN Centre in Belarus closed by the regime, and in Nicaragua the regime also forced the closure of PEN Nicaragua – both Centres are now operating in exile. In Myanmar the coup d'état violently swept away hard-won democratic gains and installed a regime of brutal repression. The return of the Taliban in Afghanistan resulted in many writers and members being forced to flee to ensure their safety, with those who stayed behind being forced into silence.

PEN International coordinates a network of 150 autonomous centres spread across 100 countries, and approximately 40,000 members, most of whom are writers. PEN defends – and often provides essential support to – those who are persecuted for their writing. PEN advocates for mutual respect through campaigning, fostering cross-cultural dialogue, education, literary exchanges, and translation.

This booklet tells our story for 2021 in numbers, looking at our income, expenditure and public mandate.

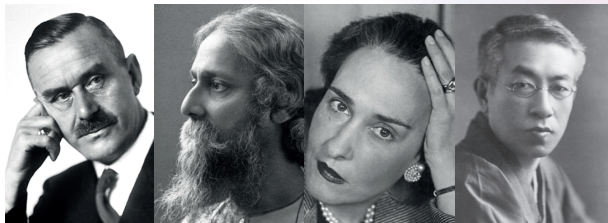
# who we are... history



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

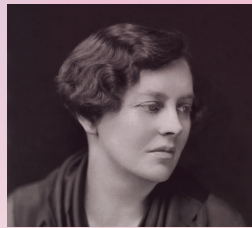
Over ten decades we have become a genuinely international organisation, encompassing a wide array of cultures and languages, and today the overwhelming majority of PEN International's 150 Centres come from outside Europe. Women's rights are promoted by centers participation to PEN Women Writers Committee and PEN has promoted peace in countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina, 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

The cast-iron sculpture entitled **Witness**, created by Antony Gormley, to **mark our 90th anniversary**, stands 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

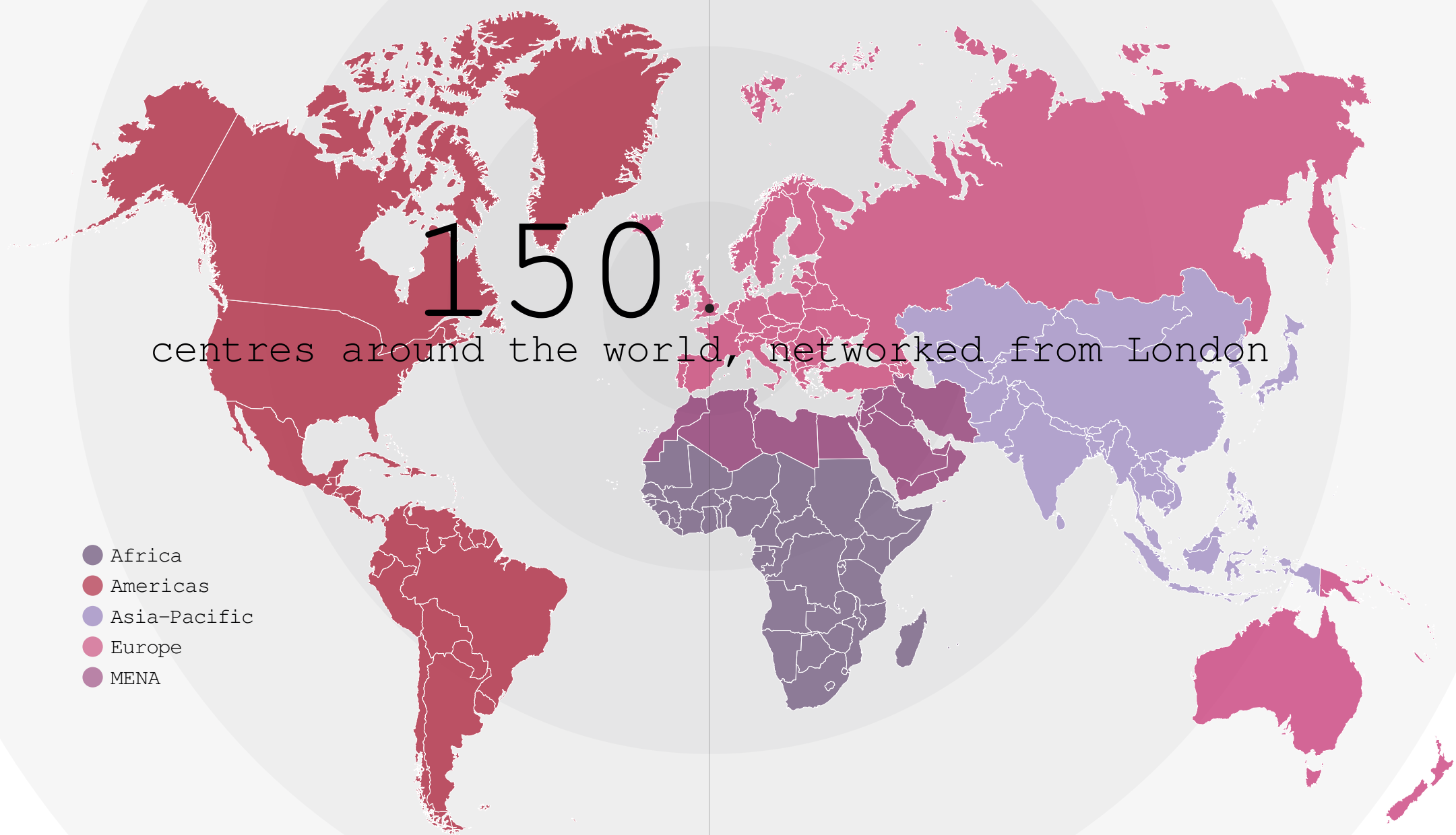
The first meeting of the PEN Club was held at the **Florence Restaurant in Soho on 5 October 1921**



- **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.

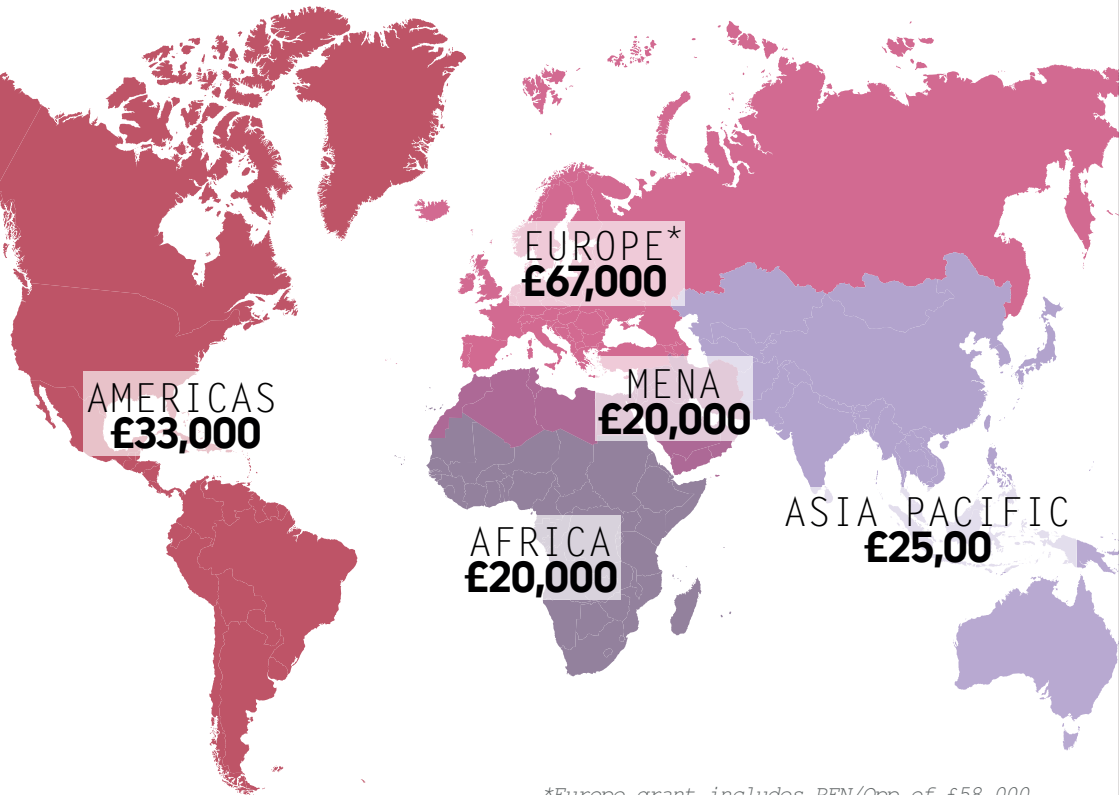
- **The Board:** The current governing board of PEN International is made up of our Executive Board consisting of International President, Burhan Sonmez, International Secretary, Kätlin Kaldmaa, International Treasurer, Eric Lax, and seven other Board members.

# where we operate.





# grants per region 2021

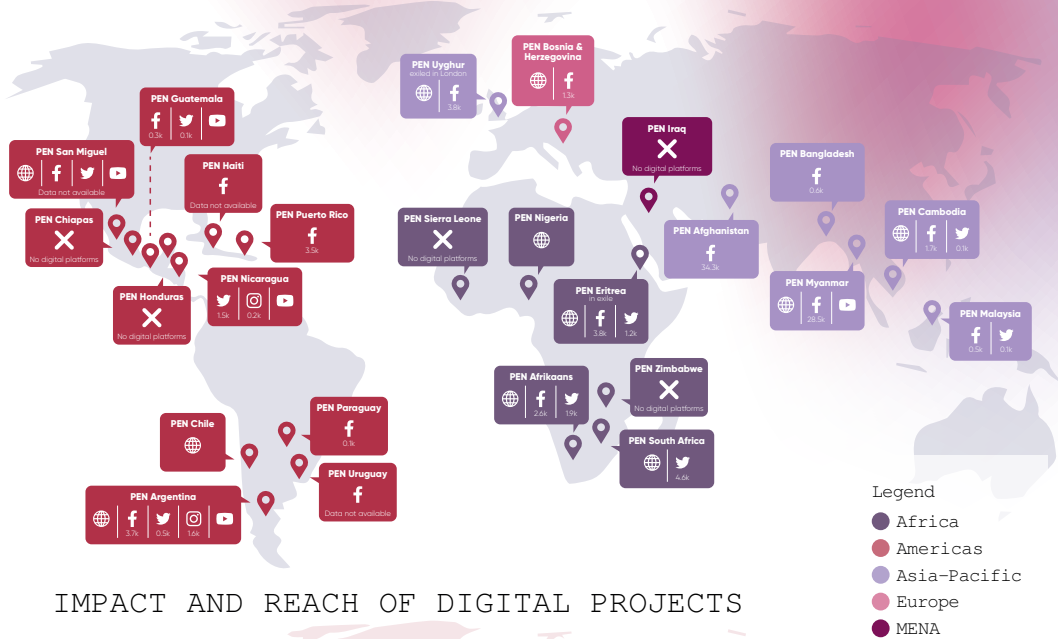


\*Europe grant includes PEN/Opp of £58,000 (paying contributors, website hosting, design, comms time)

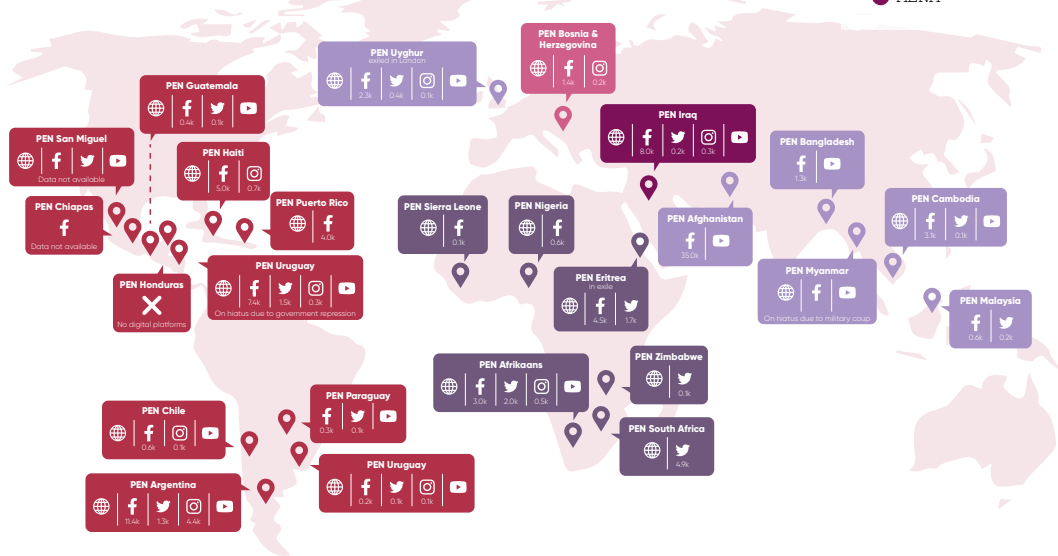
Our support to PEN Centres through our sub granting Civil Society Program has continued to provide creative spaces in which to stimulate debate and facilitate dialogue. PEN Centres supported in 2021 include Afghanistan, Argentina, Cambodia, Chiapas (Mexico), Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Iraq, Malawi, Myanmar, and Zimbabwe. Projects focus on advancing programs which promote creative expression and understanding of human rights to promote greater tolerance and acceptance across society of the value of literature, language, diversity, and the importance of the rule of law.

# PEN Centres digitally

## START OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAMME



## IMPACT AND REACH OF DIGITAL PROJECTS

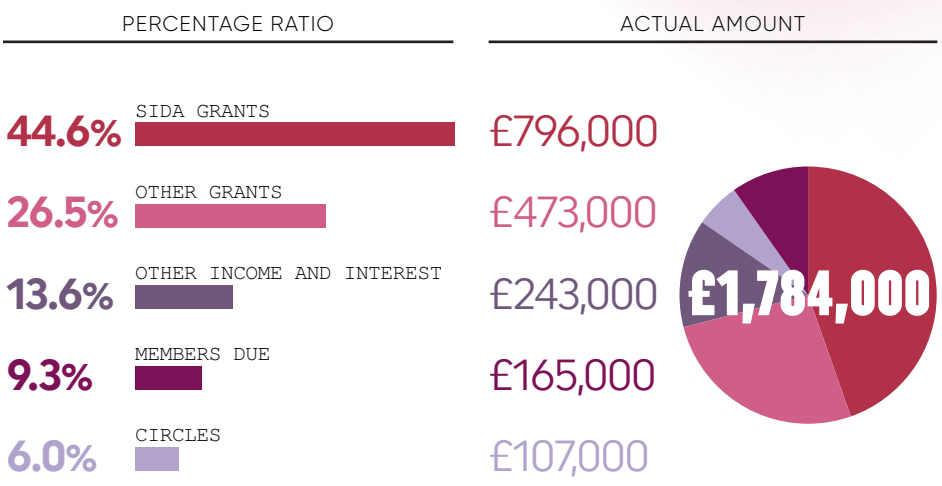


Digital projects through the civil society programme lasted an average of 7 months. All projects were carried out between August 2020 and June 2021.

# our income

January 2021 to December 2021

## HOW OUR INCOME WAS GENERATED 2021



### Funders/Donors/Partners

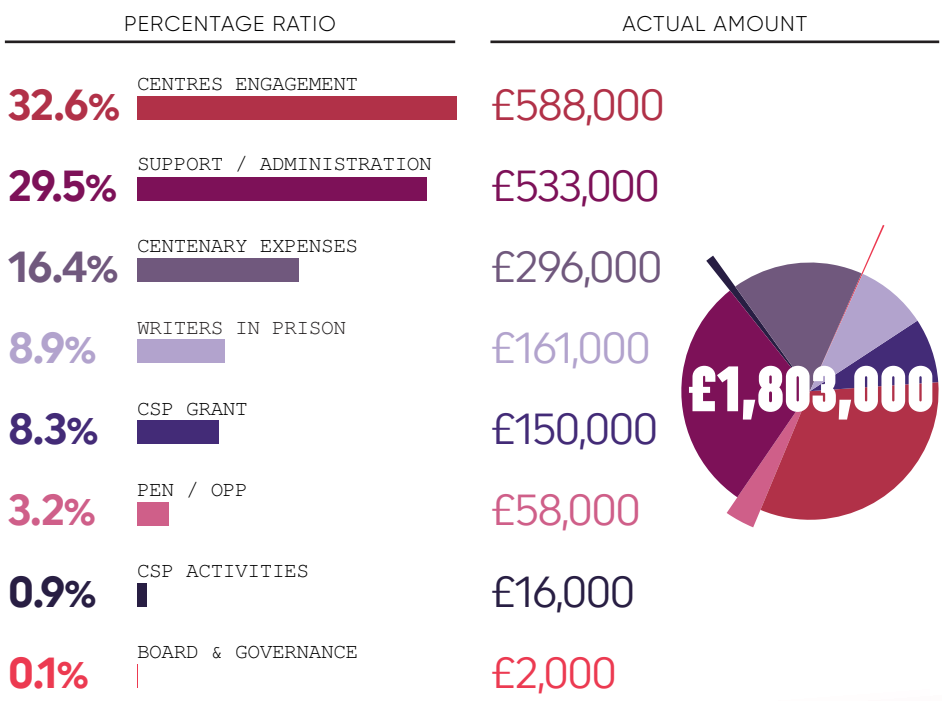
With a resounding ‘thank you’ we celebrate the remarkable support of our generous donors, partners, and contributors. Their continuous support has ensured our global influence and safeguarded our vital work with writers against increasing threats.

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.

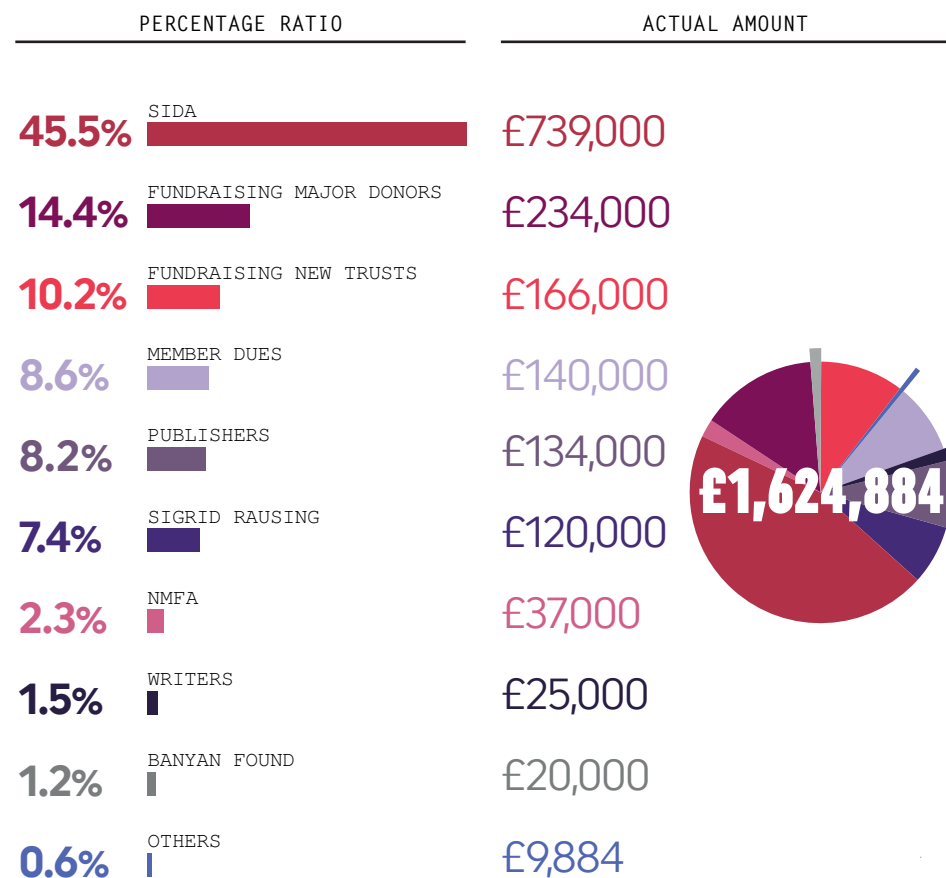
# our expenditure

January 2021 to December 2021

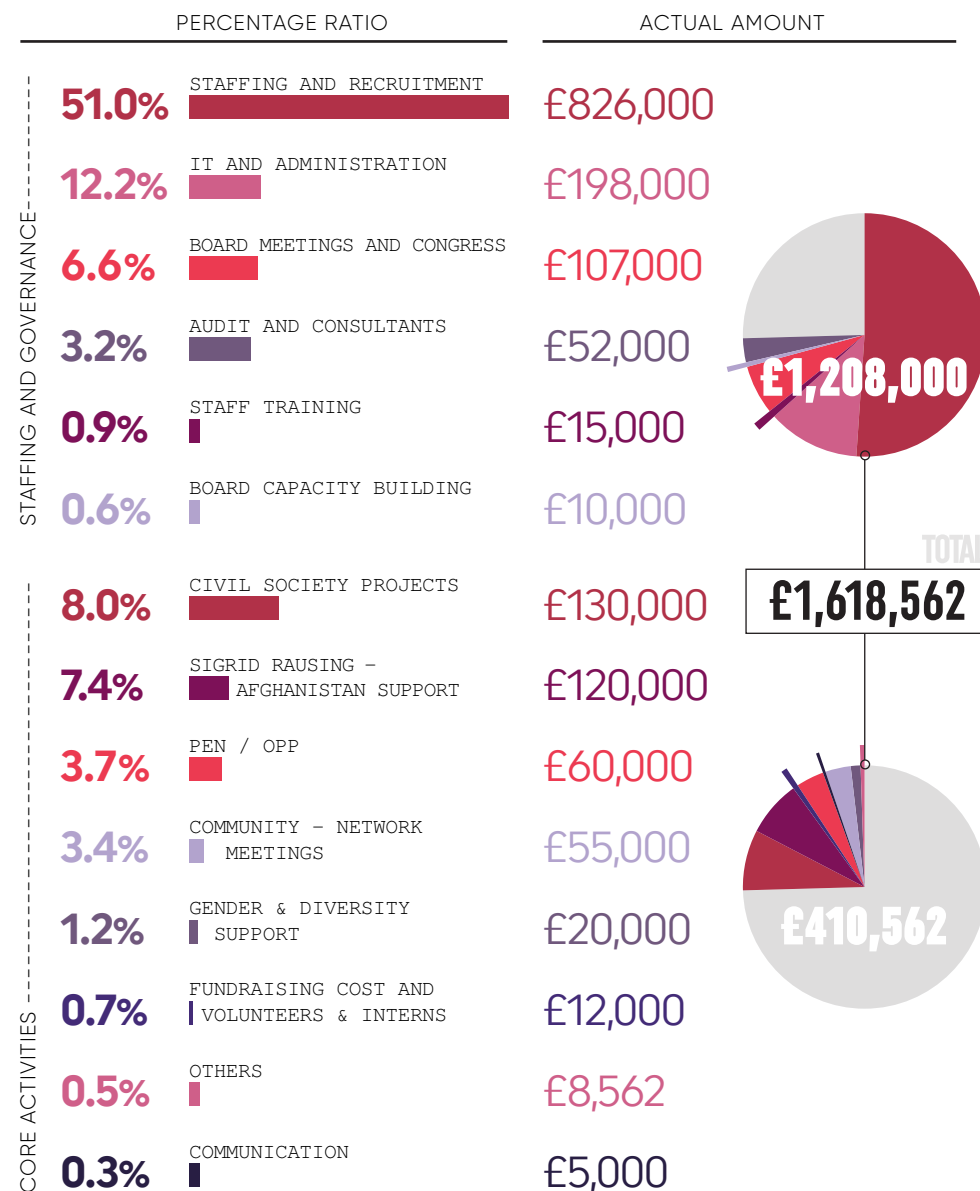
## HOW WE USED OUR INCOME 2021



# our budgeted income 2022



# our budgeted expenditure 2022



# key achievements.

**30** **writers at risk** received humanitarian support from the PEN Emergency Fund – 16 men and 14 women

**5** **global campaigns** and dozens of actions pursued on behalf of writers persecuted for their writing

We launched a partnership with Moomins on their much-loved story ***The Invisible Child***: PEN supported **10** **Centre led projects** in Afghanistan, Afrikaans, Argentina, Cambodia, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Iraq, Myanmar, Sierra Leone.

PEN's 2020 **Case list** was published in May 2021 with a global overview of attacks, imprisonment and persecution of writers including an overview of key events that impacted on freedom of expression and a summary of cases of concern to PEN.

**24** **PEN Centres** improved their digital presence through projects in 2020/21.

**1** **hybrid event** was held at the UN Human Rights Council on focus countries: Belarus, Nicaragua, and Eritrea **3** **briefings** were submitted to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; scores of meetings were held with UN missions on pressing freedom of expression situations.

**4** **resolutions** on the critical situations in **Belarus, Israel and the OPT, Myanmar and Nicaragua** were adopted by PEN.

**111 & 329** **PEN Centres & PEN members** participated in PEN's Centenary Congress.

**2** **new PEN Centres** were established, PEN Quechua and PEN Malta.

To celebrate its 100 years, the PEN Centenary Book, ***An Illustrated History***, was launched. Published in nine languages to date, with more than 500 photographs, letters, documents, posters and maps, ***An Illustrated History*** presents the organisation's journey and work on the promotion of literature and protection of freedom of expression since its foundation in 1921. It is available for purchase from the **PEN International's website**.

# thank you to our supporters.

We rely on voluntary donations to deliver our work: solidarity actions and campaigns, and our programmes protecting writers at risk. We are particularly grateful to members of our Writers Circle, Publishers Circle, and other donors listed below.

## Writers Circle

Hanan Al-Shaykh  
Margaret Atwood  
Catherine Banner  
Andrea Barnet  
Simon Beckett  
Carolyn Cohagan  
Anthony Doerr  
Carleton Eastlake  
David Francis  
Gina Frangello  
Rita Gabis  
Joan Gelfand  
Nina George  
Arthur Golden  
Lauren Groff  
Jane Hirshfield  
Laura Hubber  
Debra Jo Immergut

## David Lagercrantz

Eric Lax  
Joanne Leedom-Ackerman  
M. G. Lord  
Geert Mak  
Yann Martel  
Marisa Matarazzo  
Vida Ognjenović  
Ben Okri  
Arya Rajam  
John Ralston Saul  
Ian Rankin  
Bernhard Schlink  
Jane Smiley  
Burhan Sönmez  
Frances Spurrier  
Colm Tóibín  
Ayelet Waldman  
Jess Walter  
Jamie Wolf  
Yosef Wosk

## Publishers Circle

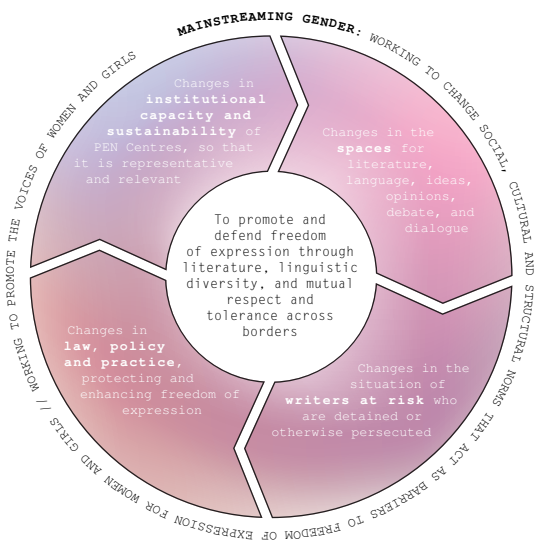
Albert Bonniers Förlag  
C.H. Beck  
Finnish Book Publishers Association  
Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Editore  
Hachette Livre  
HarperCollins International  
Luchterhand Verlag  
Mareverlag  
Natur & Kultur  
Norstedts Förlagsgrupp  
Judith Gurewich and Other Press LLC  
Penguin Random House  
Simon & Schuster  
Suhrkamp Verlag

## Other supporters and partners

Isabel Allende • Albert Bonniers Förlag • C.H. Beck • Clifford Chance • Nali Dinshaw • Finnish Book Publishers Association • Fritt Ord Foundation • Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Editore • S. Fischer • Michael and Anne Golden • Hachette Livre • HarperCollins International • KiWi • David Lagercrantz • Eric Lax and Karen Sulzberger • Luchterhand Verlag • Mareverlag • Yann Martel • Mogford Prize and 'The Oxford Collection' • Moomin Characters Oy Ltd • Derek Moore Foundation • Natur & Kultur • NMFA • Norstedts Förlagsgrupp • Ben Okri • Clarissa Palmer • Orhan Pamuk • Penguin Random House • Reemtsma Stiftung • Sick Foundation • Sida • Sigrid Rausing Trust • Simon & Schuster • Suhrkamp Verlag • UNESCO and many more.



# 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	The situation of writers at risk is improved by PEN's direct assistance, solidarity, advocacy and campaigning	Duty bearers are receptive to PEN's demands for improvements to FOE policy and practice	Increased capacity of the board to provide leadership & insight to PEN International (PI)
Increased platforms exist for marginalised language writers	Displaced writers are given a platform and connected with professional networks, allowing them to continue with their work	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	Increased capacity of the committees to provide direction and expertise to PI and membership
Increased access to literature exists for young, diverse and marginalised writers	The voices of displaced writers are heard in global migration debates	Writers have resources and networks required to support them in tackling PEN's thematic areas	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	Assessing applications for residency placements and one-off grants for writers at risk	Advocacy	Developing and delivering strategies
Supporting Free the Word! events	Providing asylum support	Coordinating outreach events	Delivering trainings
Coordinating regional campaigns	Leading and supporting international campaigns	Holding workshops	Coordinating regional and international network meetings
Establishing indigenous language PEN Centres	Advocacy	Supporting public panel events	Supporting PEN Centres
	Developing regional capacity for protection of writers	Developing toolkits	Strengthening committees
			Diversifying funding

## 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 40,000 writers from across the globe who are members of 150 PEN Centres, working together to defend freedom of expression and promote literature.


One of the peculiarities 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


### OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES: WHERE WE'LL WORK



Promoting Freedom of Expression for women and minority groups




Countering hate speech



Promoting Translation and Linguistic Rights

### 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

## OUR VALUES

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

# fundraising efforts.

## 2021 and hopes for 2022

PEN's work continues to garner support. In 2021, we followed our fundraising strategies established in 2020, in the face of continuing challenges such as the pandemic, lockdown and a global economic crisis. In this difficult context, we achieved a number of successes and brought to PEN International.

As ever, we extend our immense gratitude to all our supporters, not least those mentioned below, without whom we would not be able to carry out our vital programmes.

Our Writers Circle received a boost with more than a dozen new members, some giving as much as £6,000 per year. New members include Simon Beckett, Ben Okri, Yosef Wosk and Ian Rankin. Linked to our Centenary fundraising, we also thank Orhan Pamuk, Yann Martel, David Lagercrantz and Jeremy Mogford for their kind sponsorship in 2021.

- thank you all!

We thank the Derek Moore Foundation for supporting a project as part of our civil society programme, and we thank the Else von Sick Foundation. Also noteworthy was the emergency support from the Sigrid Rausing Trust for our protection work in Afghanistan.

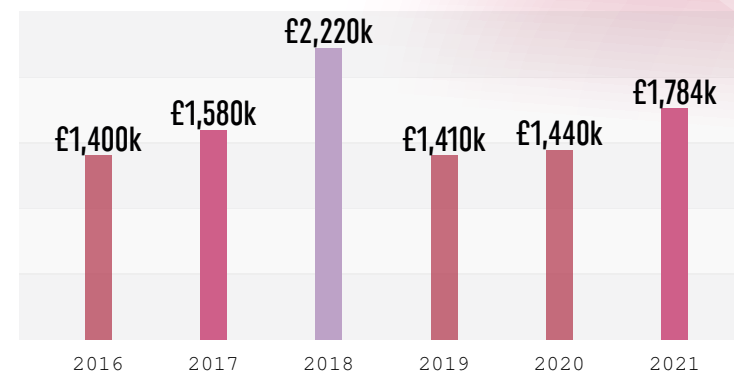
We remain grateful to Moomin whose partnership continued in 2021, with an unrestricted donation, which will be repeated in 2022. Their design of PEN-branded products sold in their online shop and launched our Centenary digital Congress held in September. We thank SIDA, NMFA, UNESCO, and Fritt Ord Foundation for their continuing support.

We continue to talk with dozens of individual donors in an effort to secure investment in PEN. We hoped to enlarge this area significantly, and we are delighted to have won the support of Nali Dinshaw, who sent a large personal donation in late 2021, and Clarissa Palmer, whose major gift was received in early 2022. During the year we received exceptional donations from several existing supporters: Thank you, again, to Bernhard Schlink, Geert Mak, Jonathan Beck and another who wished his extra gift to remain anonymous, and finally to Jan Philipp Reemtsma, to whom we owe a huge debt of thanks.

# the COVID effect.

LIKE MANY ORGANISATIONS, COVID-19 IS HAVING A HUGE IMPACT ON THE AMOUNT OF INCOME WE HAVE RECEIVED SINCE JANUARY 2019.

## OUR INCOME 2016 - 2021



## HERE'S HOW WE'RE RESPONDING:

- employed a Head of fundraising to explore new and creative ways to generate income
- implemented cost saving strategies and incorporated full cost recovery in all restricted areas
- we've worked with all our funders to streamline activities to allow more flexibility in our core funding
- in developing a new way of working, we're making arrangements to significantly reduce our office cost

We look forward to what the future may hold for PEN International. Like so many charities across the world, the impact of COVID-19 on PEN's work cannot be understated. However, under a strong board and community centred leadership, together with a sustainable strategic direction, we have reason to be optimistic.

# some words of hope and thanks.

## ANGELO SUAREZ (Philippines)

*Thank you again for your solidarity! PEN International's quick and timely statement really helped us spread word around our circumstances, draw support for our immediate release, and call attention to what the farmers of Tinang and their supporters have been putting up with.*

## KATHERINE BISQUET (Cuba)

*I am grateful for the great efforts of the PEN and ARC team to help and protect me through raising the visibility of my case and facilitating my departure to a place where I can create safely in exile, after being expelled from my own country for allegedly being a threat to the stability of the regime. I share my eternal gratitude and all my admiration for their effective and excellent human rights work.*

## SANJAYA WILSON JAYASEKERA (Lawyer, Sri Lanka)

*I profusely thank you all and the PEN International, PEN Emergency Fund, for the financial assistance given to the poet and teacher AJ, upon my request. AJ, has purchased the required material to start online teaching and I learnt that he will be soon conducting online classes. ... It's hard times for all of us in Sri Lanka, lack of fuel, long queues, high inflation and shrinking wages. The government has unleashed its severe crackdown. But struggles continue.*

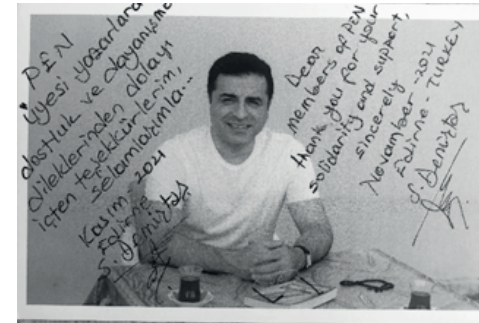
## KHOLOUD MOKHTARI (Morocco)

(screenwriter and wife of imprisoned journalist Souliaman Riassouni)

*All thanks to PEN International and their journalists and writers who wrote to journalist Souliaman Riassouni in his hardship. Your messages were filled with love and solidarity and helped me to hang in there during this hard time. On behalf of Souliaman, and from inside his jail cell, I send you all my greetings.*

## NORMAN TUMUHIMBISE (Uganda)

*Honestly, we cannot thank PEN International enough. Farida and I have received the support. The support received from you was so timely as it helped me shift my family and enabled me to get basic welfare too. Otherwise, if I hadn't gotten your support I really don't know how I would be now!*



## SELAHATTIN DEMIRTAŞ (Turkey)

*On 15 November 2021, Day of the Imprisoned Writer, PEN International featured the case of writer and opposition politician Selahattin Demirtaş. Demirtaş sent a moving postcard to PEN members, thanking them for their support.*


## ELCHIN MAMMAD (Azerbaijan)


*The grant is the biggest support for a mother with two young children in difficult times. The most positive aspect of the grant support is that during these days when the whole world is fighting the Covid-19 virus, the organization did not leave the human rights activist and his family alone and provided them with moral support as well as care. ... Thanks to the grant, the material well-being of Elchin Mammad's family members, the solution of their problems during E.Mammad's imprisonment had a very positive effect on E.Mammad's...*


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Donate to PEN here: