www.womenagainstrape.net/
www.genewatch.org/  www.openrightsgroup.org/
www.privacyinternational.org/ fullfact.org/
www.fpa.org.uk/ blackmentalhealth.org.uk/
www.justiceacrossborders.org/
www.reidfoundation.org/

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

The work of JRRT-funded campaigners since 2010

allianceforchoiceni.org/ ukfeminista.org.uk/
www.fabians.org.uk/ netpol.org/ www.bitetheballot.co.uk/
unlockdemocracy.org.uk/ www.caat.org.uk/

www.manifestoclub.com/ www.migrationmatterstrust.co.uk/
highpaycentre.org/ www.efc.org.uk/
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brightblueonline.com/ www.spinwatch.org/
www.opensukey.org/ www.positivemoney.org/
businessagainstgreed.co.uk/ www.object.org.uk/ hackinginquiry.org/

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www.paladinservice.co.uk/
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© Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd 2013
Campaigns move on very quickly but all the information here was correct in June 2013.

Writer: Sharon Telfer
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This booklet gives a flavour of what some of our campaigners have achieved since the General Election in 2010. We don’t publish a standard Annual Review and this is not an exhaustive catalogue of our grants. (You can find a fuller list on our website.) Instead, we want to give you an idea of what we do.

Some people know us for helping to fund the Liberal Democrats or the AV Yes campaign, but there is much more to our work. We’ve supported over 70 campaigns since the election. We’ve given grants ranging from £1,000 to £70,000. We’ve worked with single-issue campaigns and broad-based networks, with veteran organisations tackling deep-set problems and those honing their skills on new issues.

At first glance, you may think our grantees are very diverse. They certainly differ in their concerns and their tactics, but a common thread runs through each member of our community. They are all fighting for freedoms and against ‘corrupting powers’. They’ve scored notable victories – bringing in new laws and blocking bad legislation, flushing out and contesting threats to civil liberties. They’ve worked tirelessly at the grassroots, drawing movements together and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable individuals.

Such political activists have very few sources of funding. That’s where JRRT comes in. We fill some of the cracks in campaigning. We back progressive campaigns which are too political for other funders but which could make a real difference to this country. Our role is unique and we are proud we can support some highly skilled and dedicated campaigners. We hope you find their work as inspiring as we do.

**FOREWORD**

At the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, we’ve backed activists defending civil liberties and striving for positive political change and democratic reform for well over a hundred years.

Our founder, Joseph Rowntree, deliberately established us as a company and not a charity. This means we can do what most funders cannot. We support overtly political causes that confront corrosive powers in our democracy and seek changes that rebalance power for the well-being of our society.

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Why we do
What we do

The Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd is a limited company, paying tax on its income, which makes grants for political, campaigning or lobbying purposes that are ineligible for charitable funding.

What are our principles?
Our principles are rooted in the liberal, progressive Quaker values of our founder, Joseph Rowntree. We recognise the equal worth of every person.

We stand for:
- the defence of liberty
- freedom of expression
- freedom of conscience
- freedom from all forms of oppression – political, religious, economic, social.

What do we want to achieve?
We want to:
- Correct imbalances of power. We support the voice of the individual, the small and weak when stifled by the group, the big and strong.
- Strengthen those striving for reform, speaking truth to power, and challenging systems that hinder justice and freedom.
- Support creative campaigns for political change and a healthy democracy.
How do we meet our aims?

We support individuals, groups and organisations – whoever is best placed to move things on.

We:

• Back campaigns that no one else can or will fund.
• Support causes, people or organisations that share our principles but may not find favour with mainstream opinion.
• Offer those we fund a supportive community of shared belief, not just money.
• Take risks with our money and reputation – those we support often risk very much more.

• Adapt to the needs of our time.
• Respond quickly with small grants at the point when these can have a big impact.
• Seek out and foster talented campaigners who make a difference.

What are our politics?

We are not committed to the policies of any one political party. In the absence of significant party funding reform (for which we have campaigned over many years), we have made grants to the Liberal Democrats (and predecessor parties) to correct the financial imbalance between parties and to support political developments central to a healthy democratic process.
CHAMPIONING FREEDOMS

JRRT has always stood for the defence of liberty. JRRT supports those striving to protect our rights – as individuals or as a society.

Protecting individual freedom

Our law should shield us when we are most vulnerable. However, unless society remains vigilant, it can be perverted and cause harm to those it is supposed to protect. Where the law was silent, our campaigners called for it to speak out for victims. Where the law has set back justice, they have demanded it be used against the criminal, not the victim. Protection Against Stalking drove through new laws to protect defenceless individuals. But they didn’t stop there. They continue to fight under a new name – Paladin – for a victim’s charter to make sure the new laws are acted on. Women Against Rape fights miscarriages of justice that twist the law into a weapon which punishes victims not perpetrators.

CASE STUDY 1: PROTECTION AGAINST STALKING

Changing the law in record time

‘It cost me my marriage, my home, my job and my sanity.’ Tracey Morgan’s ordeal lasted years, only stopping when her stalker was jailed for attempting to murder another woman. For Clare Bernal, Tania Moore and Rana Faraqui stalking cost them their lives, despite repeated appeals to the police. Such harrowing stories inspired Protection Against Stalking’s drive to get stalking recognised in law.

Harry Fletcher of NAPO and police psychologist Laura Richards of PAS combined seasoned campaigning with professional expertise. They set up the first independent, cross-party, Parliamentary Inquiry into stalking. The Inquiry held evidence sessions and produced an exhaustive, authoritative report. They lobbied intensively for cross-party support – with victims and their families involved throughout.

Such was the momentum that the Prime Minster invited Harry, Laura and PAS to Downing Street to pledge his support. Stalking became a criminal offence in the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, only 10 months after the Inquiry began.
Don’t prosecute the victims
When Layla Ibrahim reported a violent rape, she was accused of causing her own injuries. The perpetrators were never pursued. Layla was jailed for three years. Cases like Sarah’s are as horrifying. A long-term victim of domestic violence, rape and intimidation by her husband, Sarah’s conviction for retracting her complaint was upheld even though neither the police nor the CPS disputed that she had been repeatedly raped. The CPS even admitted Sarah wouldn’t have been prosecuted if new guidelines had been in force when the case was first considered. Sarah served 18 days before her custodial sentence was remitted. But her criminal record still stands.

‘It’s a perversion of the law to prosecute rape victims while their rapists go free,’ say Women Against Rape. They are fighting to get Layla’s conviction overturned. ‘We couldn’t campaign without working closely with women in that situation,’ says WAR’s Lisa Longstaff.

WAR lobbied the Director of Public Prosecutions to stop rape victims being prosecuted where the evidence indicated their complaint was legitimate. Twenty-seven organisations signed WAR’s open letter to the DPP.

Under WAR’s pressure, the DPP publicly apologised and amended the guidelines, but WAR point to several prosecutions that already contravene these. ‘Not enough’s being done to ensure implementation,’ says Lisa. ‘We are trying to hold the authorities to account so that the standards they claim to follow are upheld.’
Defending civil liberties

Rights campaigners had high hopes for the government’s flagship Protection of Freedoms Bill. Announced early in the Coalition, it pledged to scrap laws damaging civil liberties. But soon it looked like politicians would only deliver half this promise.

‘We are a grassroots to government organisation. It’s how things are supposed to work.’
Matilda MacAttram, Black Mental Health UK

Privacy campaigners acted in concert to push back, with seasoned campaigners Privacy International marshalling their action. Expert analysis by Genewatch dissected clauses that would have allowed the police to indefinitely retain the DNA of innocent people. Black Mental Health UK highlighted serious implications for a minority already exposed to over-policing. Together, this community of activists won important safeguards. Thanks to them, the law now says that if you are arrested for a minor offence, the police cannot keep your DNA profile if they don’t convict you.

‘Fights are sometimes won, often they are not. The fact the fight is had is sometimes enough.’
Gus Hosein, Privacy International

CASE STUDY 3: PRIVACY INTERNATIONAL

Keeping the fight alive
‘Fights are sometimes won, often they are not. The fact the fight is had is sometimes enough.’ For Gus Hosein, Director of Privacy International, making sure a fight occurs where needed will make government think twice in future.

PI demystified the government’s spin on the Protection of Freedoms Bill in 2011, identifying serious weaknesses in its drafting. Known for their intellectual precision, PI’s briefings tell people what the law would really mean – not what the government says it means.

PI are highly respected in the privacy community. Gus describes their role as ‘a behind-the-scenes enabler, bringing people together’. These coalition-building skills gave real cohesion to the push back against the worst excesses of this complex Bill. Those fighting it took clear, specialist roles. The result brings cumulative weight to battles, one big collective moving forward.

‘Our aim is to have a chilling effect on bad ideas in government,’ says Gus.
National Criminal DNA DATABASE & BLACK BRITAIN

77% young black men
42% adult men
23% children
27% UK’s black population

CASE STUDY 4: BLACK MENTAL HEALTH UK

Don’t criminalise the innocent
Police retention of innocent DNA hits Britain’s black population hardest. Over-policing of the black community means 27 per cent are on the DNA database. Compare that with 6 per cent of the white population. It means the database links to almost every black family in the UK.

Matilda MacAttram of Black Mental Health UK was determined to fight this blatant injustice. Matilda lobbied ministers, MPs and civil servants about the racism inherent in the database. But BMH UK also has a wide online readership and an extensive community network. Matilda engaged minority groups with the Protection of Freedoms Bill in 2011, helping them use channels that work for them to influence its passage.

‘BMH UK is a grassroots to government organisation,’ says Matilda. ‘It’s how things are supposed to work. We articulate the concerns of the people to government. We translate government policy back to those who will be directly affected by it.’
Opposing encroachments

Government – central or local – has no right to come into our lives and restrict our civil liberties without very good reason. But encroachments have continued through successive administrations, often under the radar. Manifesto Club combats councils’ increasing regulation of our use of our own public spaces. The complex and technical Communications Data Bill hid a ‘Snooper’s Charter’. The Open Rights Group pledged to stop it becoming law and their efforts helped to force it off the government’s to-do list in 2013.

‘The government doesn’t have an automatic right to record your communications. It doesn’t record your conversations in the pub or the park.’
Jim Killock, Open Rights Group

CASE STUDY 5: OPEN RIGHTS GROUP

Stopping the ‘Snooper’s Charter’
In late 2012, Open Rights Group’s aim was clear: stop the Communications Data Bill becoming law. The first big step was persuading people there was a problem. ‘Politicians themselves were ignorant about the Bill,’ says Executive Director, Jim Killock. ‘Only a small group of civil servants understood what was being planned.’

‘It’s a Snooper’s Charter, giving the government the power to collect and analyse all our electronic conversations. This is dangerous and ill-defined,’ says Jim. ‘The government doesn’t have an automatic right to record your communications. It doesn’t record your conversations in the pub or the park.’

ORG coordinated a talented community of campaigners, compiling reports and engaging with the Committee scrutinising the Bill. This forced substantial redrafting but, with no real improvement, ORG continued their drive to block the Bill. Such persistence earned a hard-fought victory. With Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg declaring the Bill ‘unworkable and disproportionate’, it was dropped from the Queen’s Speech in May 2013.
CASE STUDY 6: MANIFESTO CLUB

Fighting ‘pavement injustice’
‘First, find out what the problem is,’ says Josie Appleton, convenor of Manifesto Club. In this case, it’s the rapid rise of on-the-spot fines.

In 2013, Manifesto Club revealed that there have been around 200,000 such fines a year since their introduction in 2004. This ‘pavement injustice’ means police, and even private contractors and council officers, can act as judge and jury. They can dispense fines to members of the public at will for sundry minor offences with the reassurance that most people won’t be able to challenge this in the courts.

Manifesto Club campaigns against such ‘hyperregulation of everyday life’. They also oppose local ‘leafleting zones’, restricting everyone from comedians to the WI.

‘Public spaces are increasingly policed by unaccountable officials bearing open-ended powers,’ says Josie.

‘First, find out what the problem is.’
Josie Appleton, Manifesto Club

With wide media coverage, written questions in the Lords and Commons, Manifesto Club have thrust these issues onto the political agenda. Following their report, Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles has backed an investigation into on-the-spot fines and major possibilities of a change in the law on leaflet licensing are on the agenda too.
Rebalancing Power

JRRT strives to correct imbalances of power and influence, wherever these lie.

Reforming politics

Sound lawmaking needs a sound body politic. We support campaigns for transparent, accountable politics. Working with Unlock Democracy, Liberal Democrat peer, Paul Tyler, has pushed tirelessly for Lords reform. Despite the defeat of the 2011 Bill to introduce elections for the upper house, his commitment to reform has never faltered. Building on that cross-party groundwork on Lords reform, Lord Tyler has drawn up a Private Members’ Bill for fairer party funding.

‘Those committed to reform must ensure that momentum for democratic reform is renewed in 2015.’
Paul Tyler

Reid Foundation is probing ways of broadening access to politics and politicians in Scotland too.

Yet the idea that politics is ‘not for the likes of us’ remains a major barrier to reform. A JRRT-funded Fabian Society poll in 2012 showed a worrying gap between the people and their representatives. What would you discuss with an MP? This response was typical, ‘I don’t know much about politics so don’t think we’d have much in common’. So another campaigner, Bite the Ballot, wants to rebrand politics, inspiring the next generation to vote for the future they want. Over 5,000 young people have shaped policy recommendations as part of their ‘My Manifesto’ campaign.

Opening up our political culture is essential for the future health of the country. Unlock Democracy, Lord Tyler and Spinwatch also want the influence of behind-the-scenes lobbyists to be clearly seen. And the Jimmy
Out of the lobby, into the open
Establishing a register of lobbyists was a key coalition commitment in 2010. Spinwatch are determined it won’t fall by the wayside.

‘There is a constituency that cares about this. We want to make sure the government remembers that.’
Tamasin Cave, Spinwatch

When scandal made the register a hot topic, Spinwatch needed to respond. ‘It’s very important to be able to catch the tide,’ says Director, Tamasin Cave. ‘Making sure that you are there with a solution is essential.’

Spinwatch have consciously built their credibility. ‘We’ve made ourselves an accurate source of information, debating with the industry, liaising with people overseas,’ says Tamasin.

Spinwatch doesn’t have a large membership so taps into other networks. With Unlock Democracy, they set up meetings around the country. The feedback was tremendous, says Tamasin. ‘It’s one thing for me to go in front of the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee. It’s another to do so knowing I’m speaking with the backing of 80 people in Sheffield passionate enough to turn out on a night of torrential rain.’
A balanced press

Read our Founding Memorandum and it’s clear that, over a century ago, concern about press influence was fundamental to Joseph Rowntree’s vision for the Trust.

We never want to inhibit press freedom. Some are surprised that we support Hacked Off in getting the Leveson Inquiry recommendations into law. But it will always be hard for a campaign about the press to get a fair platform in the press. We want to ensure the public are informed. Securing cross-party agreement for a post-Leveson Royal Charter to help protect victims of press intrusion was an immense achievement. But, with the press challenging the will of Parliament, Hacked Off continues the battle.

Like the powers they help hold to account, the media has a deep-rooted obligation to behave responsibly towards individuals and wider society. Spin and sensationalism in the press damage our politics – and even our self-worth. Campaigners believe we can do better. Object fights back against the sexual objectification of women across all media. Full Fact tackles spurious claims and disingenuous statements wherever they appear.

‘The greatest danger of our national life arises from the power of selfish and unscrupulous wealth which influences public opinion largely through the press.’
Joseph Rowntree, 1904 Founding Memorandum

Object picketed News International to put an end to Page 3
‘Spot the achievable, explain it clearly, push for it.’
Claire Harries, Object

**Time to end page 3**

‘Spot the achievable, explain it clearly, push for it.’ Claire Harries’ formula for success sounds simple. But, with only four part-time staff, Object’s mission – challenging the sexual objectification of women – is ambitious.

Monthly meetings pinpoint activists’ priorities – and eye-catching ways of highlighting these. To protest against 42 years of Page 3, Object and others picketed News International. ‘We delivered a 6ft birthday card covered in cuttings showing how tabloids portray women and men differently,’ explains Claire.

An unexpected invitation to speak at the Leveson Inquiry was a ‘massive springboard’. Ironically, the Page 3 images they presented in evidence had to be censored in the Inquiry room, despite being freely available for anyone to see in any newsagent. ‘It really got the issue into the heads of policy-makers and the public,’ says Claire. ‘Politicians have to listen to the voices of the people they represent.’
Just policing

Who guards the guards? It’s an age-old question. But we must remain ever watchful in posing it. Netpol’s observers keep check on how the police respond to public protest. Black Mental Health UK brings injustice into the open, championing a minority group who face repression behind locked doors.

‘It’s not enough to hide behind press releases and campaigning – you have to get out there and talk to people.’
Val Swain, Netpol

CASESTUDY 9: NETPOL

Watching the detectives

NetPol wants to change how we think about the policing of protest. Aggressive police tactics create frightening environments that deter peaceful protesters from exercising their democratic right to protest. ‘People have low expectations about what is ‘acceptable’ protest. Protest is so controlled that the police determine the what, where, when, and who,’ says Netpol’s Val Swain.

Netpol monitors policing using a network of trained observers. ‘Our grassroots members keep us in touch with what’s happening on the street. No other organisation can monitor the policing of protest at that level,’ says Val. ‘What we do is groundbreaking. Our contact through legal support and observers gives us a great deal of knowledge and expertise. We are there seeing what goes on. That puts us in a unique position.’

‘These are not little issues,’ says Val. ‘We have to be very bold in our messages. We have to be very clear that the level of policing of protest is unacceptable.’
Opening the door on deaths in custody
Asked what drives her to work so hard, Matilda MacAttram’s answer is simple, ‘Mothers are burying their children’.

‘If something needs doing you just do it. We all move mountains all the time, we know it’s not impossible.’
Matilda MacAttram, Black Mental Health UK

A disproportionate number of black mental health service users die in police custody or psychiatric settings. ‘It’s an issue no one wanted to talk about,’ says Matilda, Director of Black Mental Health UK. ‘It’s like, do you even want to go there?’

Far from staying silent, Matilda’s tenacity saw her submit expert evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee examining deaths in custody. Her testimony rippled further. ‘Pulling together a significant briefing means there’s now a publication by a government committee, focusing on this issue and citing BMH UK work,’ says Matilda. A meeting with the Health Minister’s private secretary followed. Health providers are taking note. Matilda has repositioned mental health as a human rights concern.

How does such a small organisation punch above its weight? ‘You need to know your stuff,’ is her straightforward reply.
Corporate greed

Big business is one of the most powerful – and least accountable – influences on our society. Joseph Rowntree warned against ‘the power of selfish and unscrupulous wealth’ in 1904 and this battle continues today. We support those striving to redress such ‘corrupting powers’.

The CEO of a FTSE 100 company is not an obvious radical campaigner. But Sir Michael Darrington, former head of Greggs Bakery, has set up Pro Business Against Greed to reduce the growing pay gap between those at the top and the majority of workers. The High Pay Centre provides legislative and policy solutions to moderate huge – and growing – pay inequalities and to introduce transparency to the pay awards of powerful organisations. InternAware fight for young people taking that important first step on the career ladder to be paid at least the minimum wage.

‘Our influence has come from having a powerful message at the right time.’
Deborah Hargreaves, High Pay Centre

CASESTUDY 11: HIGH PAY CENTRE

The business of high pay

‘We believe in a strong business sector but excessive pay spoils capitalism for the rest of us,’ says Deborah Hargreaves. That’s why she set up the High Pay Centre.

The High Pay Centre knew that amending the Business and Enterprise Regulatory Reform Bill was its best chance to change the rules on high pay. As a business journalist, Deborah’s expertise meant opponents couldn’t dismiss her arguments. With opposition on the back foot, the Centre promoted its evidence-based solutions to politicians on all sides, with notable success. The Lords, for example, voted into the draft Bill the Centre’s call for employees to be consulted on remuneration decisions.

Labour has endorsed the High Pay Centre’s recommendations, with Ed Miliband and Chuka Umunna quoting its evidence in Commons debates. But the Centre works across parties, with unions and the Institute of Directors, with shareholders and policy-makers. ‘High pay can be seen as an issue of the left. We want to reach as many people as we can,’ Deborah stresses.

Average Pay For Full-time Workers Compared To FTSE 100 CEO Total Package in 2011

£4.8m
185 TIMES AVERAGE SALARY
Stigmatising exploitation
Starting on Facebook in 2011, InternAware snowballed into a high-profile campaign for fairly paid internships.

‘It’s been a natural evolution,’ says co-founder Gus Baker. ‘We started off writing angry letters. Now we’re lobbying in much more serious ways. We want to create a stigma for business around unpaid interns. Too many young people are locked out of the opportunities they deserve.’

Twitter builds their activist base. ‘Nurturing volunteers is essential,’ says Gus. He hopes they’re winning battles they know nothing about as volunteers take their own action.

‘Nurturing volunteers is essential. They are doing this out of passion.’
Gus Baker, InternAware

‘We knew we needed to be highly political,’ Gus says. Campaigners provided examples of 100 unpaid internships that seemed to breach National Minimum Wage law. InternAware sent this list to Jo Swinson, Minister for Employment Relations, urging her to act. In April 2013, she confirmed that HM Revenue and Customs are using this evidence to enforce the law. This marks the first real action the government has taken to tackle illegal unpaid internships.

Young people are being priced out of the job market
ON THE BARRICADES

The most effective way to fight for progressive action may sometimes be by resisting change. JRRT supports those holding the line against regression.

Resisting Little Britain

Our freedoms are under threat with a ‘Little Britain’ mentality rapidly taking hold in our domestic politics. This agenda – blindly anti-European Union and anti-immigration – tries to drown out sensible debate and puts hard-won rights and advances into jeopardy. We support those who seek to redress the balance.

Cross-Europe policing cooperation protects us from crime at home and abroad. But the UK government is under acute political pressure to opt out of a swathe of key EU measures. Justice Across Borders are mounting urgent resistance to make sure cooperation that works for the UK is not abandoned just to satisfy the ideologues of anti-European Union sentiment. Cross-party group Migration Matters also aims to put a skewed debate straight, confronting the blanket scaremongering on migration so that a balanced debate can be had. And while some cite traditional Tory values in attempts to turn the clock back, Bright Blue has used these as the basis for liberal, progressive policies, building a radical new vision for the Conservative party.

‘Campaigners are idealistic but need to be realistic too, otherwise you’re wasting everyone’s time.’

Thais Portilho-Shrimpton, Justice Across Borders

‘Our challenge is to replace perception with evidence.’

Migration Matters
**Putting justice first**

Thais Portilho-Shrimpton used to work with Hacked Off. Now she’s started a new campaign. Justice Across Borders wants to stop the government opting out of over 130 EU cross-border policing and crime measures. Opt-out would make British citizens more vulnerable both to crime and to human rights abuses at home as well as abroad.

It’s a technical area. A big challenge is how to present the issues. ‘Campaigns need people who can talk to both the public and the specialists,’ says Thais. As a journalist, Thais has the media covered. She’s surrounded herself with experts who understand the detail. There are three lawyers on her Steering Committee, for example.

The deadline for opt-out is July 2014. With time pressing, Thais is pragmatic. ‘Your objective must be clear-cut but it’s important to have a contingency plan. The political world isn’t black and white. Campaigners are idealistic but need to be realistic too, otherwise you’re wasting everyone’s time.’

Justice Across Borders urges members of the public to send their MP a campaign postcard opposing the justice opt-out.
Standing firm against social conservatism

We support some campaigners working in environments hostile to everything they stand for. FPA Northern Ireland campaigns to have the 1967 Abortion Act recognised in Northern Ireland. Without this law, access to abortion is so severely restricted that it is virtually impossible to obtain in Northern Ireland.

Political and cultural opposition to debating reproductive rights is widespread and anti-choice demonstrators picket FPA’s Belfast office on a daily basis. Abortion in Northern Ireland is treated as a criminal justice matter, not a health matter, so FPA’s Director, Audrey Simpson, has been interviewed by senior police officers about ‘incitement to murder’. Nevertheless, she believes, ‘Our work is chipping away at walls of silence. Eventually those walls will fall.’

In England, things are not as different as you would think. Education for Choice’s ten-month investigation into abortion education in English schools revealed widespread misinformation activities by anti-choice speakers. These groups were being invited in without checks to talk about reproductive rights. They would make deceptive claims, like falsely linking abortion to cancer. EFC’s exposé work has forced some of these groups to correct what they say, but EFC is calling for a wholesale commitment to good practice in teaching this sensitive issue.

‘The reverberations of women changing in their own families spread outwards.’
Alliance for Choice
Letting women know their rights
Alliance for Choice is educating women about the law in their own country. Sounds straightforward? Not in Northern Ireland, and not when that law concerns women’s reproductive rights.

Alliance for Choice campaigns for the extension of the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland. ‘Campaigning on this issue is so difficult,’ says an activist. ‘Everything is weighted against it.’ Their project provides training on women’s reproductive rights in their own communities. By raising awareness, they want to ensure that women are in a position to challenge the status quo. ‘The strength of education is that it empowers individual women. It gives them time, it gives them space. It’s about taking little steps, but over time those steps build. The reverberations of women changing in their own families spread outwards.’
EMPOWERING PEACEFUL PROTEST

Passion alone isn’t enough. JRRT helps campaigners who develop the most forceful and effective tools for action.

Tools for action

Exposés by CorporateWatch testify to the enduring power of research as a weapon against injustice. But campaigners have a growing armoury of other weapons to fight with.

New technology brings new opportunities. Manifesto Club’s interactive map of London charts over 400 zones where citizens can be punished for activities that are perfectly legal elsewhere. Using the visual language of Google Maps, it informs people about their current location, urges them to flag up further restrictions and to take action against ‘pavement injustice’. At the click of a mouse, a web app from Campaign Against Arms Trade brings to light detailed information on arms export licences which would otherwise be buried in Whitehall bureaucracy. Sukey’s smartphone app kept protesters safe on the streets during cuts and student protests in 2011.

‘Our strapline is information for action – but the action’s the main thing.’

Richard Whittell, CorporateWatch
**Case Study 15: CorporateWatch**

**Equipping the argument**

‘All our work is intended to inform other campaigns,’ says Richard Whittell of CorporateWatch. ‘Very few campaigns can work solely on their own. We want to reach as many people as possible.’

‘We’re principally a research organisation,’ Richard explains. But it’s how they use that research that counts. Their exhaustive profile of G4S was a key resource for the campaign targeting the scandal-hit company. Their exposé of tax avoidance by five healthcare companies which had lobbied for the government’s NHS reforms ‘raised the temperature of the debate’ around the changes.

To spread their skills, CorporateWatch are producing a Campaigners’ Handbook, guiding people through the tricky world of business reporting and accounts. ‘We encourage people to look at some of the most important influences on their lives – the big corporations,’ says Richard. ‘Our strapline is information for action – but the action’s the main thing.’

**Case Study 16: Sukey.org**

**The wisdom of crowds**

When a police horse charge trampled a friend demonstrating peacefully against tuition fees, Sam Carlisle and Sam Gaus were outraged. That outrage fed into a very practical response – Sukey, a smartphone app designed to keep protesters safe.

The main aim was to stop demonstrators being ‘kettled.’ The name comes from the nursery rhyme, ‘Polly put the kettle on, Sukey take it off again’.

Sukey crowdsourced information, using Twitter and other sources, on- and offline. That information was verified, structured and fed back to demonstrators. Online activists supported those on the ground. ‘Online supporters can help demonstrators by verifying reports and completing other small tasks wherever they are in the world,’ said Sukey.

All this gave protestors a real-time overview of what was happening where at the peak of the student protests in 2011. It stopped them getting tangled up in troublesome spots and helped peaceful protests stay lawfully – and safely – on the streets.

‘Wherever they are in the world, online supporters can help demonstrators stay safe on the street.’

Sam Carlisle, Sukey.org
Mobilising movements

Radical reform has always drawn strength from numbers. Many of our campaigners testify to the exponential impact of community campaigning and working in coalition. But setting up and maintaining networks takes a lot of resources. That’s why we help newer networks like UK Feminista build momentum. Like the suffragettes a century before, their imaginative and empowering programme shows the power of bringing passionate campaigners together to demand political reform.

Case Study 17: UK Feminista

Deeds not words

‘It’s women and men coming together to decide what to tackle and how to do it, not being dictated to.’ That’s how Elli Moody describes UK Feminista, a young but rapidly growing network. ‘People choose their own battles but UK Feminista aims to bring everything together under one banner.’

UK Feminista designed a year-long programme to build momentum. Activists met monthly to share ideas. Cascading invitation lists brought many more to these meetings. Online, YouTube films explored inequality at work and in the justice system, violence against women and getting women’s voices heard.

The year culminated with a Feminist Lobby of Parliament. Led by Helen Pankhurst, great-granddaughter of Emmeline, hundreds joined the Olympic Opening Ceremony ‘suffragettes’ outside Westminster. The event cemented connections between campaigners but also encouraged individuals to lobby their MPs for action on feminist concerns. ‘UK Feminista wants to see feminism at the heart of politics,’ says Elli. ‘The solutions exist. It is political will that is holding back on all these issues.’
WHAT CAMPAIGNERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT US

New challenges arise as times change. JRRT fosters the talented campaigners who identify and confront them.

If you think we could fund your campaign, first read the full details of our work and how to apply on our website. We don’t have formal programmes of work but there are some important points you must note.

1) We work at the sharp end of campaigning...

Lots of people have good ideas and causes we can identify with. But when we decide what we fund we have to make a judgement call on what is and what isn’t ‘political’ campaigning. It’s difficult, but it’s essential. We are one of very few organisations who can fund the campaigns you’ve been reading about here. So, if you are a registered charity or the work you want to do could qualify for charitable funding, we would have to encourage you to look elsewhere.

2) A week is a long time in politics...

We’re quicker than a lot of funders. But if you are new to us we will always ask you to introduce yourself with a written outline of who you are and what you want to do. This allows us to check your campaign has JRRT potential before you apply. If it does, we have two types of grant:

**Small grants of £5,000 and under**: There is no deadline for applying. We aim to give you our decision within two weeks.

**Large grants over £5,000**: We consider these applications at quarterly meetings. You will need to check the application deadlines on our website carefully. Make sure you contact us in good time so we can let you know if you should apply.

Charitable grants

Some campaigns reported here were funded by the JRSST Charitable Trust, which has been endowed by JRRT. All JRRT Directors are also trustees of the JRSST Charitable Trust. The JRSST Charitable Trust only gives charitable grants in areas closely related to the work of the JRRT. You cannot apply for JRSST funding and it does not accept unsolicited applications.
‘Without that small amount of money, that change wouldn’t have happened.’
Harry Fletcher, Protection Against Stalking

‘The JRRT are unique funders – they actively want people to get stuck into the politics not sit on the fence.’
Gus Baker, InternAware

The Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust backs campaigns defending civil liberties and striving for positive political change and democratic reform.

Our role is unique. We support progressive campaigns that are too political for other funders but which could make a real difference to this country.

We’ve funded over 70 campaigns since the 2010 General Election, working with single-issue campaigns and broad-based networks, tackling deep-set problems and flushing out new concerns. **Speaking truth to power** highlights just some of their achievements.

Such political activists have very few sources of funding. That’s where we come in. We’re proud to support the inspiring campaigners featured here.

**Find out more at www.jrrt.org.uk.**