

Promoting literature and  
defending freedom of expression.

---

**P.E.N.**  
in numbers  
2022



**pen**  
INTERNATIONAL

# content.

- welcome • 1
- who we are. history • 2
- what we stand for. the Charter • 3
- where we operate • 4
- grants per region • 6
- civil society programme 2022 • 7
- our income • 8
- our expenditure • 9
- our budgeted income for 2023 • 10
- our budgeted expenditure for 2023 • 11
- key achievements 2022 • 12
- theory of change • 14
- fundraising efforts • 16
- investors in people • 17
- some words of hope and thanks • 18



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. For over one hundred years, PEN International has been at the forefront of defending – and often providing 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.

Over the course of 2022 the indicators marking freedom of expression globally, have seen authorities excel in punishing those who speak out or articulate critical dissent or opinion. Across all regions, growing numbers of writers, creatives, journalists, and others have been arrested, detained and often imprisoned, subjected to unwarranted attack, as well as varying forms of persistent harassment. In Nicaragua and Cuba writers have been stripped of their citizenship and expelled from their homeland. PEN members from Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, Myanmar, and Turkey were forced into exile. Publishers, media outlets and others have either faced closure or increasing pressure to censor any form of opinion which may be deemed critical of the authorities.

In 2022 PEN International's direct interventions grew exponentially as more and more writers requested assistance. We supported 55 writers to obtain humanitarian grants from the PEN Emergency Fund, and we facilitated the evacuation and relocation of 57 at risk Afghans – members of PEN Afghanistan and their families.

In other areas we have worked alongside our PEN Centres particularly those working in environments hostile to free expression by supporting projects at the grassroots where Centres have sought to use literature to promote debate around human rights and ensure inclusion of marginalised voices.

PEN in Numbers provides a financial snapshot of our work this year, none of which would have been possible without the generosity of our steadfast supporters – our heartfelt thanks are extended to all.

This booklet tells our story for 2022 in numbers with more emphasis on our income generation and resources expended.

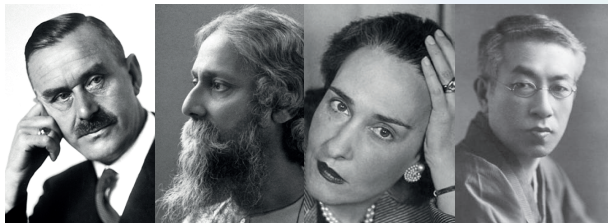
# who we are... history



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 152 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**



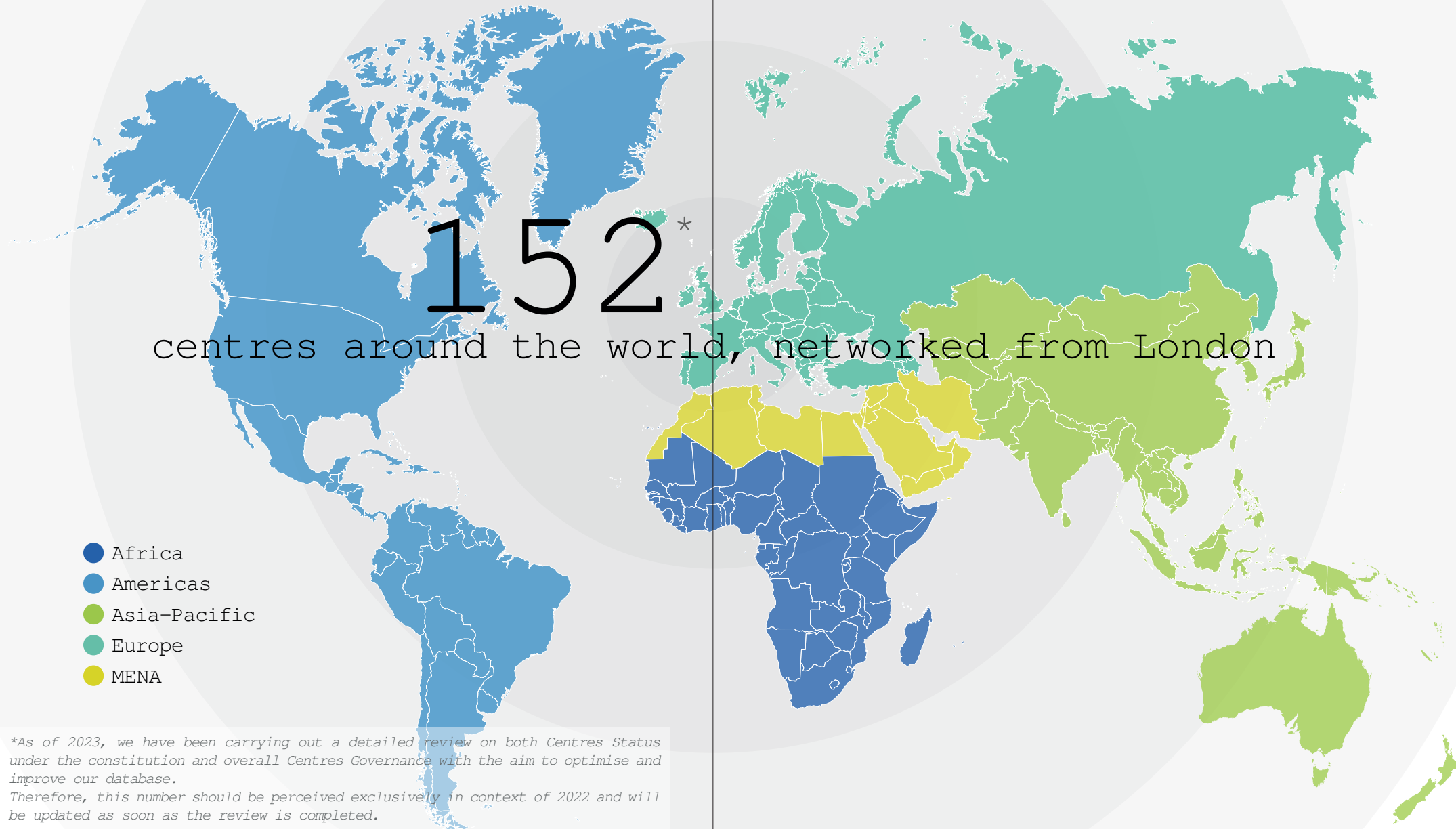
- **Literature**, knows no frontiers and must remain common currency among people in spite of political or international upheavals.
- **In all circumstances, and particularly in time of war**, works of art, the patrimony of humanity at large, should be left untouched by national or political passion.

- **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, Regula Venske, International Treasurer, Eric Lax, and seven other Board members.

# where we operate.



152\*

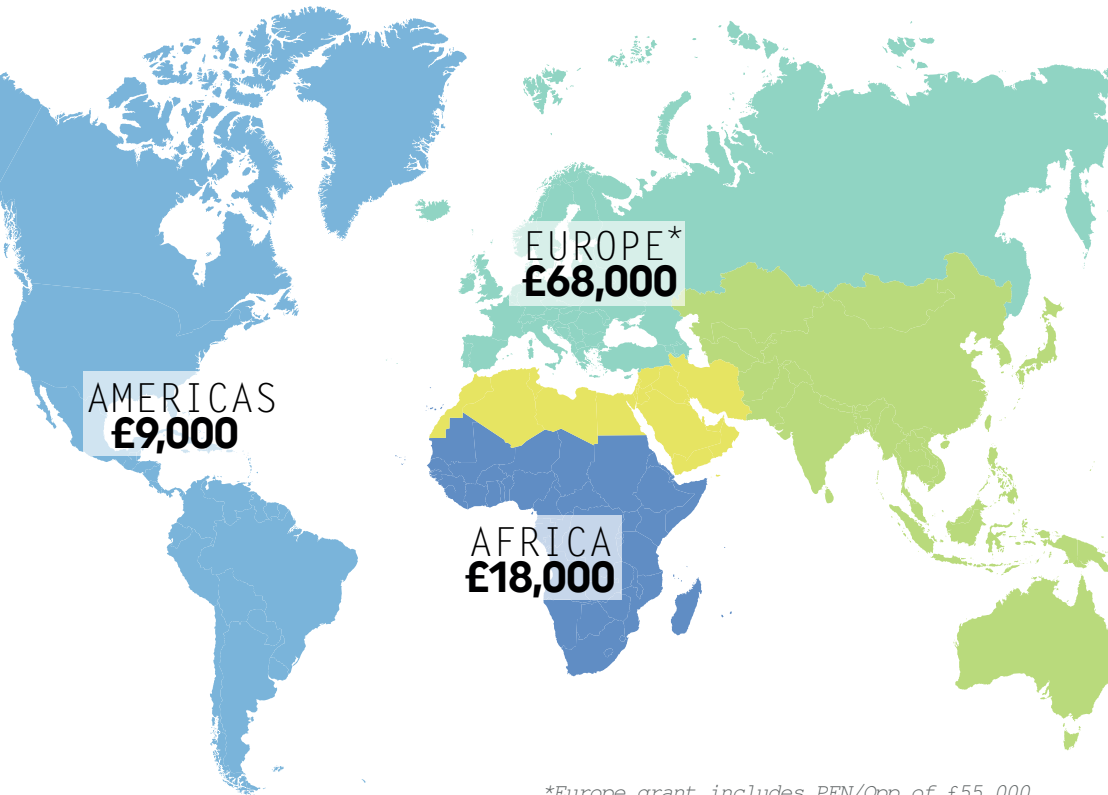
centres around the world, networked from London

- Africa
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- MENA

*\*As of 2023, we have been carrying out a detailed review on both Centres Status under the constitution and overall Centres Governance with the aim to optimise and improve our database. Therefore, this number should be perceived exclusively in context of 2022 and will be updated as soon as the review is completed.*



# grants per region 2022



\*Europe grant includes PEN/Opp of £55,000 (paying contributors, website hosting, design, comms time)

Our organizational dexterity enables us to exist in the most hardened environments and under authoritarian regimes, in which the continued focus in promoting exchange and dialogue through literature enables us to engage in difficult issues deftly and subtly. Even in exile.

In addition to our critical research, campaigning and emergency relief work, PEN International has been working to support broader institutional initiatives through the CSP project.

# civil society programme 2022

In transitioning into year four of this work (in which the pandemic coerced all institutions into building online platforms for engagements in promoting and protecting the parameters of freedom of expression) the Secretariat has continued to support specific projects which we believe contribute to and build on credible literary based ideas and initiatives.



14 PROJECTS WERE SUPPORTED THROUGH OUR CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAMME

3X TRANSITIONING FROM LONG TERM CONFLICT – THE ROLE OF CULTURAL RIGHTS:

- o **Iraq** – promoting and protecting intangible forms of cultural heritage.
- o **Chile** – cultural memory in times of democracy.
- o **Belarus** – monitoring restrictions imposed on cultural workers.

6X DISENFRANCHISEMENT AND LITERATURE:

- o **Malawi, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Chiapas** – Invisible Child.
- o **Afrikaans** – Access – broadening access of historically linguistic disenfranchised groups to mainstream literary spaces through online training courses.
- o **Argentina** – publicly engaging with diverse literature.

3X HOLDING THE LINE – PROMOTING THE PARAMETERS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION:

- o **Myanmar** – exploring relevant texts in literature through digital meetings.
- o **Haiti** – promoting writing of linguistic rights and gender groups.
- o **Cambodia** – promoting the status and role of the writer.

1X SEED GRANTS TO HELP ESTABLISH NEW CENTRES:

- o **Ecuador** – establishing PEN Ecuador amongst the cultural, literary, and journalist sector.

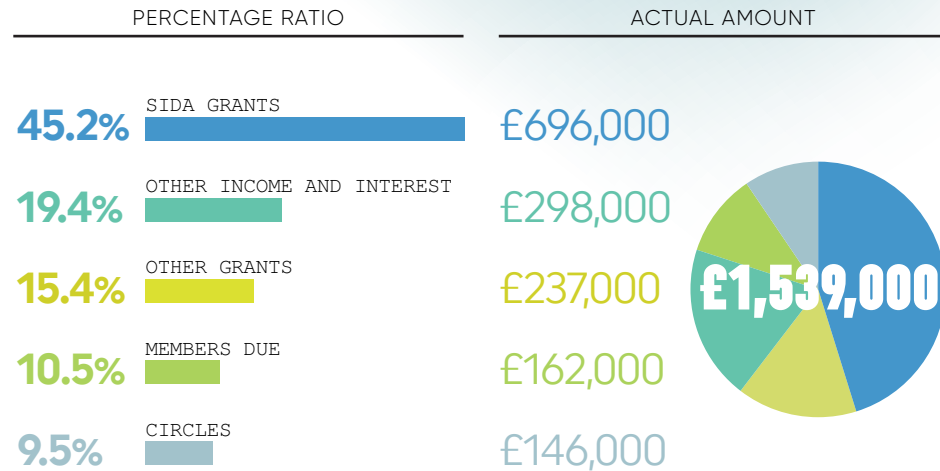
PUBLISHING DISSIDENT LITERATURE AND OPINION

- o PEN OPP (**PEN Sweden**) critical online space for enabling literary discussion about the impact of exile on writing and writers.

# our income

January 2022 to December 2022

HOW OUR INCOME WAS GENERATED 2022



## 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.

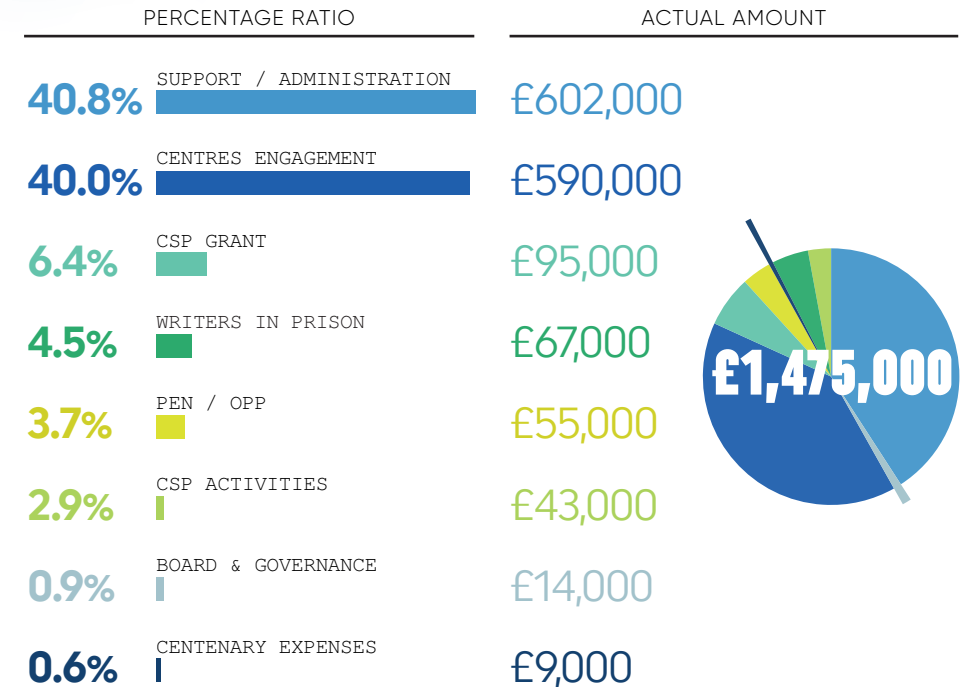
Our donors make a significant impact on our work. We are immensely grateful for any help we receive and rely on kind donations to deliver our civil society programmes and vital protection work.

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 2022 to December 2022

HOW WE USED OUR INCOME 2022



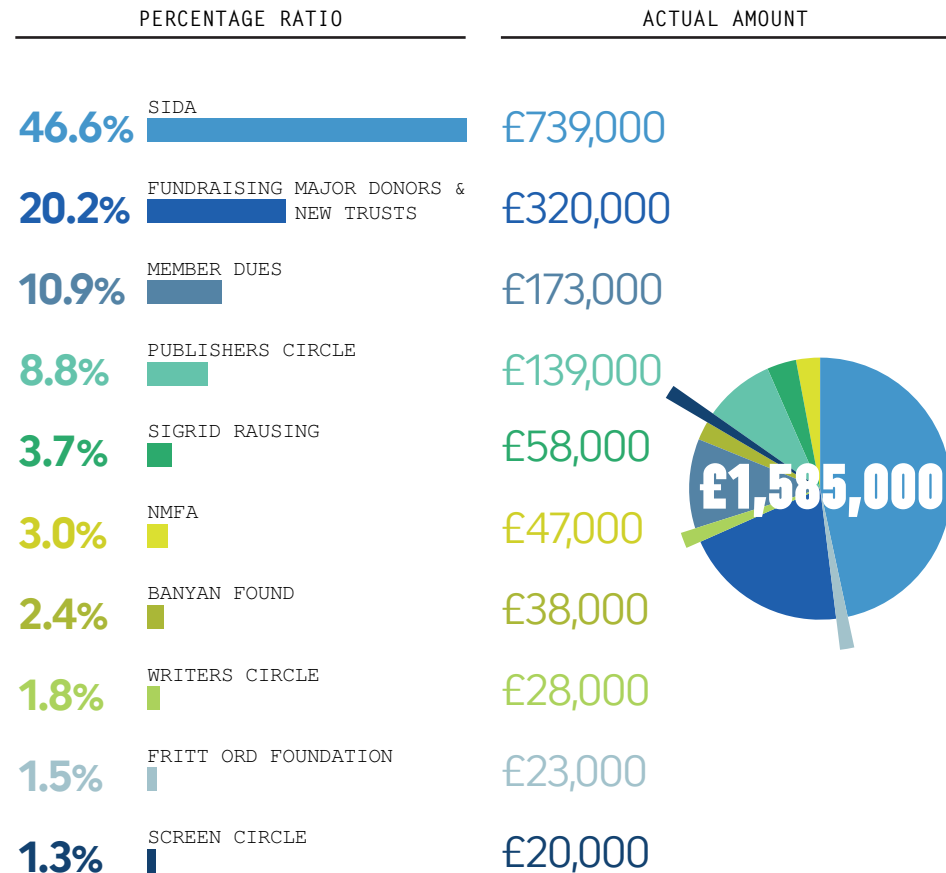
## Value for money

Providing value for money is vital for any charity. Ensuring that we don't compromise on quality while ensuring we get as much as we can for our money, means spending less, spending well and spending wisely. A focus on value for money is an objective that all staff are now aware of. Every role has a requirement to think about the value for all orders they are placing, questioning costs they believe to be too high, and getting multiple quotes for purchases.

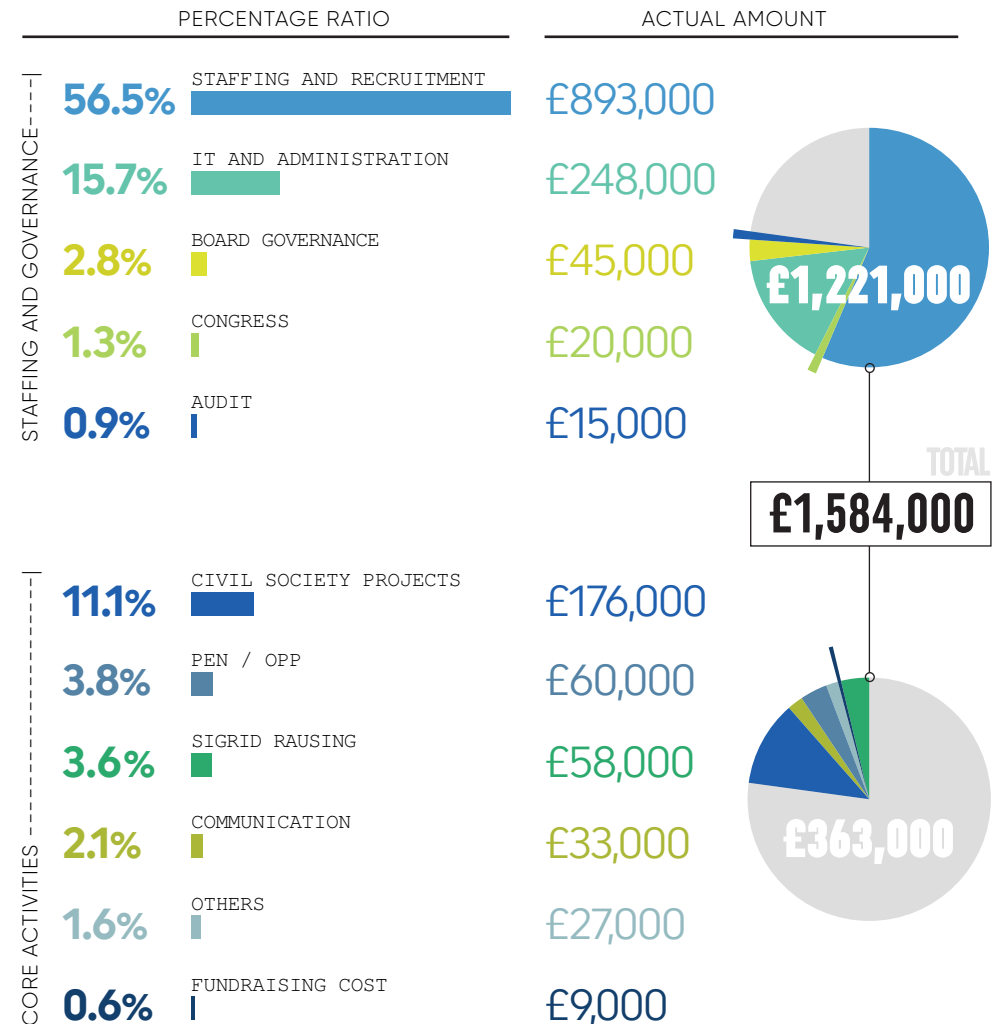
By looking at value for money we want to make sure that:

- what we do is relevant and leads to benefits for our Centres
- how we work is efficient and effective, so we don't waste time or money
- we get a good return from what we spend and make wise choices

# our budgeted income 2023



# our budgeted expenditure 2023



# key achievements.

**55** **writers at risk** received humanitarian support from the PEN Emergency Fund - (approx. increase of 80% on 2021).

PEN's 2022 [Case list](#) was published in March 2023 with a global overview of attacks, imprisonment and persecution of writers including an overview of key events that impacted on freedom of expression.

PEN International successfully facilitated the emergency relocation and long-term resettlement of **57** **vulnerable Afghans**, comprising of PEN Afghanistan members and their families.

We launched [our first crowdfunding campaign](#), with **148** individuals generously donating.

**5** & **6** **global micro campaigns** (country focused)

**5** Resolutions were adopted at our Annual Congress on Cuba, on the war in Ukraine, war in Ukraine, on Julian Assange, the threat to freedom of expression and Civic Space, and on the Repression of the Kurdish Language and Culture in Türkiye.

**107 381** **PEN Centres & PEN members** participated in the 88th PEN Congress in Uppsala, Sweden.

**2** **new PEN Centres** were established, PEN Arman and PEN Sri Lanka.

**14** **PEN supported Centre led projects** in Afrikaans, Argentina, Belarus, Cambodia, Chiapas, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Iraq, Malawi, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Zimbabwe.

Kindly see PEN Centres supported in 2022 on Page 7

# thank you!

As ever, our work is only possible because of the dedicated and kind support of our Patrons, Partners and other supporters, some but not all of whom are listed below.

## Writers Circle

Mona Arshi  
Margaret Atwood  
Catherine Banner  
Andrea Barnet  
Simon Beckett  
Louis de Bernières  
Gloria Browne-Marshall  
Carolyn Cohagan  
Anthony Doerr  
Gwen Edelman  
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  
Ben Okri  
John Ralston Saul  
Sir Ian Rankin  
Petra Reski  
Bernhard Schlink  
Jane Smiley  
Burhan Sonmez  
Ayelet Waldman  
Jess Walter  
Jamie Wolf  
Klaus-Peter Wolf  
Yosef Wosk

## Publishers Circle

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

## Other supporters and partners

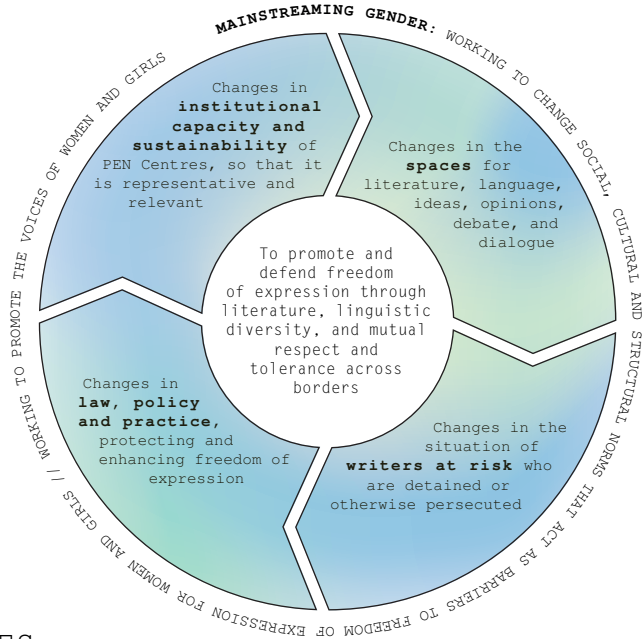
In addition to the above, we would like to extend our gratitude for the help and support of:

Isabel Allende • Clifford Chance • Jennifer Clement • Rachel Cornish • Nali Dinshaw • The Evan Cornish Foundation • Lord Julian Fellowes • Fritt Ord Foundation • S. Fischer Verlag • Michael and Anne Golden • Kiepenheuer & Witsch • Kursbuch Kulturstiftung • Eric Lax and Karen Sulzberger • Joanne Leedom-Ackerman • Lois Mander • Elizabeth McCance • The McCance Foundation • Vera Michalski-Hofmann • Moomin Characters Oy Ltd • Lilly and Sven Murmann • Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway • Sir Ben Okri • Clarissa Palmer • Reemtsma Stiftung • Sida • Sigrid Rausing Trust • Ingrid Rollema • The Souter Charitable Trust • Julie Taymor • UNESCO • Linda Walker • Susannah Wight

Lastly, huge thanks to everyone who contributed to our [crowdfunding campaign for writers at risk!](#)



# 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 Secretariat staff to deliver and develop strategic plan 2020-23
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	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.

## 2022 and beyond: Strengthening future funding models

We continue our efforts to diversify our fundraising, developing existing sources and endeavouring to on-board new funding streams. The focus is essential, so as to reduce the risk of reliance on a small number of very generous longstanding supporters. The board and staff are determined to safeguard our mission and to create long-term sustainability.

In 2022, we began to operate in a post-lockdown environment, attending and organising in-person events, and pursuing meetings with supporters and prospects. Building relationships and partnerships with stakeholders through a range of activities, including: at festivals and major international Book Fairs in London and Frankfurt.

We rely on voluntary donations to deliver our solidarity campaigns and writer-at-risk response work, and therefore seek to expand the unrestricted funding we receive through our Publishers Circle and Writers Circle. We have had meetings with a range of publishers and writers, have recently won the support of several new ones, with others making verbal pledges which we are trying to translate into donations in the near future.

In this period, we secured new funding from several new trusts and major donors outside the literary field, and we are keen to embed and deepen this work. We will continue to nurture relationships with contacts and make approaches to prospects who have the capacity to make major donations, in some cases through trusts, foundations or companies that they are involved with. This year we launched our first crowdfunding campaign, raising £33,000 from 148 gifts. It was a large target, a pilot with unknown outcomes, and we are encouraged to have attracted so much new support. Our plan going forward is to promote more frequent discrete crowdfunding appeals through the year for specific cases or projects.

In 2023, we established a high-level, global Philanthropic Advisory Board, with the ambition to grow its membership during the coming period in order to attract new investment over a longer period. We also plan to set up a Stage & Screen Circle membership to include companies and individuals with a stake in freedom of expression and the imagination. A major donation from a founding member is already received. We will also develop an associated Agents Circle, where literary and creative agents can play an ambassadorial role in advocating for PEN with their clients & publishing contacts.

Kindly see Patrons, Partners and other staunch supporters on Page 13

# investors in people.

One of PEN's biggest achievements this year was gaining the Investors in People (IiP) Accreditation.

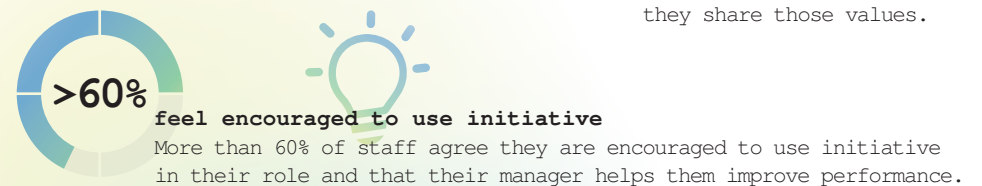
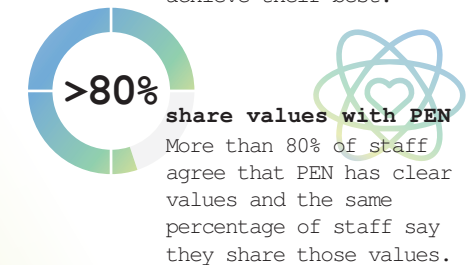
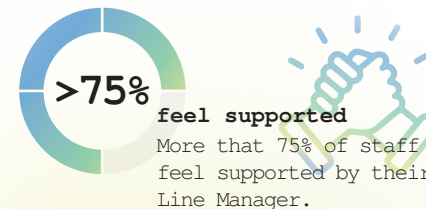
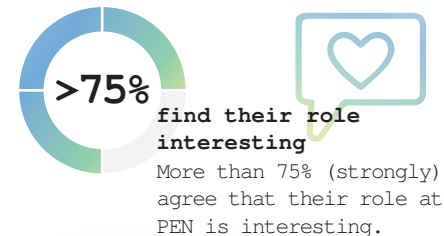
Here are some of the things to be proud of as said by our IiP inspector:

"This small team of deeply committed, skilled, and knowledgeable people have come through a difficult period and have strong aspirations for the development of PEN, the team, and themselves".

"The team has a very clear and deep investment in PEN's mission".

"A good understanding of the value of effective collaboration".

## SOME NUMBERS FROM OUR STAFF:



# some words of hope and thanks.

"First of all, I would like to thank you. The interest and solidarity you showed so that I wouldn't suffer injustice brought tears to my eyes. Being able to hear my voice is both hopeful and empowering against all the injustices in the world. Thank you for your solidarity campaign."

**GULGEŞ DERYASPÎ (TÜRKIYE)**

*"It's like the sun for me, it's like the life I need. I want to thank PEN International for every letter I got because it gave me life. It told me that I'm not alone in prison. I had so many people, writers, artists thinking about me. It is meaning too much for me."*

**DAREEN TATOUR (PALESTINE)**

"Today, I received the funds. It is my honour and gratitude to thank you for your restless efforts during all this period without which it would have been difficult if not impossible to get such tremendous assistance. Your teamwork spirit has made it possible and successful, hopefully such manner would be a continuous motivation in future collaboration."

**MEH (SUDAN)**

*"I profusely thank you and the PEN International for the financial support given to the poet and teacher Aadhi upon my request. Aadhi has purchased the required material to start online teaching and I learnt that he will be soon conducting online classes."*

**ANONYMOUS  
(SRI LANKA)**

*"The experience led to positive relationship building among the children. Sharing their stories in real life promoted a sense of solidarity and mutual help among the learners."*

**BRENDA DZANGARE (ZIMBABWE)**  
Invisible Child Project

"The number of children who wanted to join the club was overwhelming. They came to the window to listen to their friends reading and discussing the story. We wish there were more time to take a new group through the process."

**MS MUZAMBARA, TEACHER  
(ZIMBABWE)**  
Invisible Child Project

"Since the arrest and detention of my husband, Moroccan Journalist Soulaïmne Raïssouni, your organisation has been at the forefront of defending him and his right to a fair trial. In addition, you have supported our family in the most challenging and critical moments. We thank you for supporting our family through your international campaigns, which reach your fellow imprisoned writer in prison and leave a huge positive effect on his psychological status."

**KHOLOUD MOKHTARI (MOROCCO)**





*"There is nothing more valuable for a prisoner who is being punished for his words than those who released his words and delivered them to people so they can be heard and read[...]. I hope your support continues with my friend Alaa Abd El-Fattah, the thinker and Galal El Behairy, the lovely poet, and for all those targeted because of their words, so we can celebrate their freedom all over the world. Thank you."*

**AHMED DOUMA (EGYPT)**

REGISTERED OFFICE  
167-169 Great Portland Street  
London, W1W 5PF

T: +44 (0) 20 7405 0338  
info@pen-international.org

pen-international.org

-  peninternational
-  pen\_int
-  peninternational
-  PENInternationalable

Registered charity number: 1117088

A company limited by guarantee number: 05683997



Make an impact.  
Donate to PEN here: