



THOMSON REUTERS
FOUNDATION

INFORM. CONNECT. EMPOWER.

2020

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ANTONIO ZAPPULLA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

When I took over as CEO in April 2019, I was in no doubt that there were hugely exciting opportunities ahead. I inherited an organisation with great reputation, reach and know-how, and a talented and passionately committed team.

Not only that, but in its recent history the Foundation had grown from a modest charity focused on the training of journalists and reporting on humanitarian issues, to a global organisation known as a thought leader in the anti-slavery world and renowned for its pro bono legal network, TrustLaw, as well as its journalism. The Foundation's potential for continued evolution – and impact – was clear.

This is a tribute to my predecessor, Monique Villa, who had overseen the Foundation's transformation,

strengthened its convening power and focused her drive and passion to ensure the breadth and scale of its work continued to grow apace.

A change in leadership, however, is a great time to pause, take stock and look at the trajectory we've followed over the past decade. Some distinct trends stood out to me, together with a clear opportunity to realign the Foundation's strategic path to build on the areas in which we can achieve the most impact.

And that is why our newly-defined focus areas double down on our core expertise. These are: media freedom, inclusive economies and human rights.

These pillars of work are interconnected, interdependent and overlapping. At the Thomson Reuters Foundation we believe that societies around the world should be free, fair and informed. It is simply impossible to live in such a society if there is a lack of free media, if human rights are not upheld, and if there's no socio-economic inclusion.

This new framework encompasses all of our existing activities, offering the perfect opportunity to develop initiatives and partnerships that are clearly relevant to us. In addition, it shifts the focus to the wider and collective outcomes of the organisation. Our mission now is as clear as it has ever been: we use the combined power of journalism and the law to build global awareness of the critical issues faced by humanity, with the goal of inspiring collective leadership and shaping a prospering world where no one is left behind.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antonio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.



TRUST PRINCIPLES

The Thomson Reuters Foundation adheres to the same ethical standards that Thomson Reuters has adopted through its Trust Principles. The Trust Principles were created in 1941, in the midst of World War II, in agreement with The Newspaper Proprietors Association Limited and The Press Association Limited (being the Reuters shareholders at that time). The Trust Principles imposed obligations on Reuters and its employees to act at all times with integrity, independence, and freedom from bias.

Reuters Directors and shareholders were determined to protect and preserve the Trust Principles established in 1941 when Reuters became a publicly traded company on the London Stock Exchange and Nasdaq. A unique structure was put in place to achieve this. A new company was formed and given the name 'Reuters Founders Share Company Limited', its purpose being to hold a 'Founders Share' in Reuters.

In 2008, the Trust Principles were adopted by the new company, Thomson Reuters.

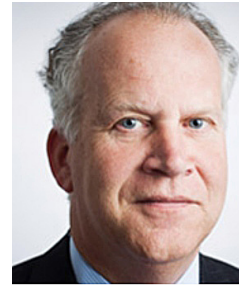
- 01 That Thomson Reuters shall at no time pass into the hands of any one interest, group or faction;
- 02 That the integrity, independence and freedom from bias of Thomson Reuters shall at all times be fully preserved;
- 03 That Thomson Reuters shall supply unbiased and reliable news services to newspapers, news agencies, broadcasters and other media subscribers and to businesses, governments, institutions, individuals and others with whom Thomson Reuters has or may have contracts;
- 04 That Thomson Reuters shall pay due regard to the many interests which it serves in addition to those of the media; and
- 05 That no effort shall be spared to expand, develop and adapt the news and other services and products so as to maintain its leading position in the international news and information business.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020



JIM SMITH

*Chairman of the Board (As of April 7, 2020)
Former President and CEO of Thomson Reuters*



DAVID BINET

*Chairman of the Board (Until April 7, 2020)
President and Chief Executive Officer,
The Woodbridge Company*



LAWTON FITT

*Director,
Ciena Corporation*



EILEEN LYNCH-SUSSAN

*Chief Marketing Officer,
Refinitiv*



BRIAN PECCARELLI

*Chief Operating Officer,
Thomson Reuters*



STEPHEN ADLER

*Editor-in-Chief,
Reuters*



SUSAN GIBSON

Philanthropist



NICOLE YOUNG

*Producer,
60 Minutes*



PETER WARWICK

*Former Chief People Officer,
Thomson Reuters*



GEERT LINNEBANK

*Former Editor-in-Chief,
Reuters*

WHO WE ARE

We are the corporate foundation of Thomson Reuters, the global news and information services company. As an independent charity, registered in the UK and the USA, we work to advance media freedom, foster more inclusive economies, and promote human rights. Through news, media development, free legal assistance and convening initiatives, we combine our unique services to drive systemic change.

OUR VISION

We believe that societies around the world should be free, fair and informed.

OUR MISSION

We use the combined power of journalism and the law to build global awareness of critical issues faced by humanity, inspire collective leadership and help shape a prosperous world where no one is left behind.

OUR VALUES



TRUST

We are independent and impartial. We adhere to the Thomson Reuters [Trust Principles](#).



INNOVATION

Innovation is at the heart of our work.



DIVERSITY

We are global. We strive for diversity across all our work.



COLLABORATION

We act as a convener across sectors, connecting key stakeholders to further our mission.



IMPACT

We work to achieve positive, sustainable impact.

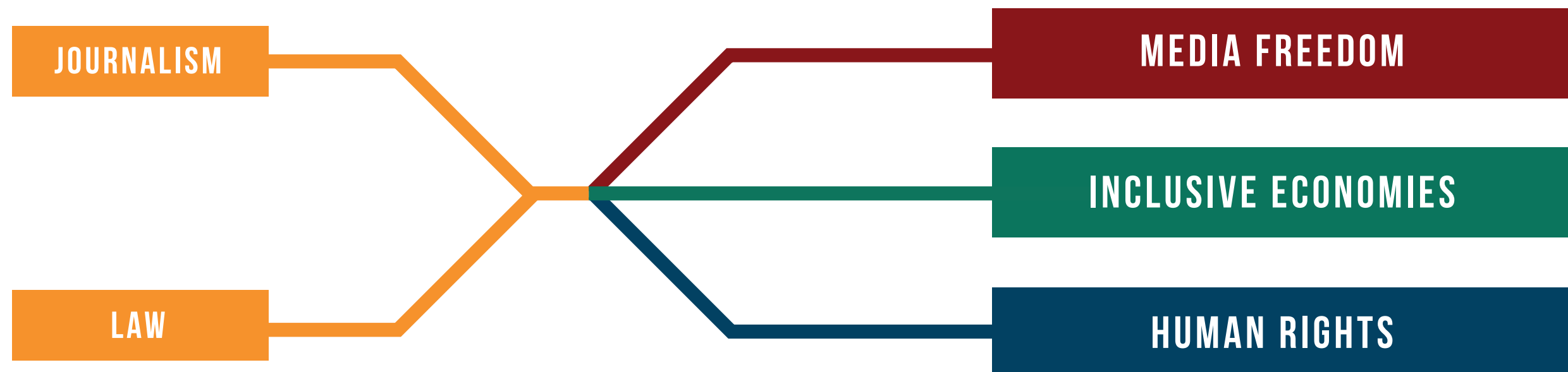


OUR APPROACH

Accurate and balanced news coverage is critical to informing public opinion, revealing previously undocumented stories, exposing abuses of power and holding authority to account. The law is fundamental to establishing and protecting the rights of individuals and to upholding free, fair and informed societies.

As the corporate foundation of Thomson Reuters, our unique expertise combines the power of **journalism** and the **law** to advance media freedom, foster more inclusive economies, and promote human rights.

We believe there is a symbiotic relationship between our three focus areas, and that one cannot thrive independently of the others.



OUR FOCUS AREAS: IN BRIEF

MEDIA FREEDOM

- The media is a crucial pillar of any free, fair and informed society.
- Media outlets are facing unprecedented economic and technological challenges and there is an alarming increase in attacks on journalists around the world.
- ✓ We work with journalists, media managers, legal practitioners, policymakers, regulators, technologists, academia and businesses to foster a free and prosperous media ecosystem that can play a vital role in supporting democracy and development.

OUR MEDIA FREEDOM WORK CENTRES ON THE FOLLOWING PILLARS:

**MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY
AND DEVELOPMENT**

**DEFENDING
MEDIA FREEDOM**

**STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE
OF JOURNALISM**

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES

- Modern slavery, the climate crisis, and the impact of data and technology on people are among the biggest challenges of our time.
- There is increasing recognition that the mainstream economic model is generating a deepening divide and hurting our planet.
- ✓ We work with journalists, legal practitioners, civil society, policymakers and the private sector with the aim of combatting modern slavery, fostering fair and sustainable economic and business models, and raising awareness of the impact of technology on people, society and freedoms.

OUR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES WORK CENTRES ON THE FOLLOWING PILLARS:

**COMBATTING FORCED LABOUR AND
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**FOSTERING FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS MODELS**

**PROTECTING AND PROMOTING
DATA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS**

HUMAN RIGHTS

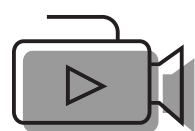
- Human rights are inalienable, universal rights belonging to every single human being, irrespective of race, religion or creed.
- They are fundamental to our mission – societies cannot be free, fair or informed without respect for these human rights.
- ✓ We raise awareness of human rights issues around the world via our news coverage and by training local journalists to report accurately on these issues.
- ✓ We facilitate legal assistance and research to support frontline human rights organisations, and drive collaborations to advance these rights and influence policy change through partnerships, working groups and events.

OUR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK CENTRES ON THEMATIC ISSUES INCLUDING:

- **FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION**
- **FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
- **DATA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS**
- **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**
- **LGBT+ RIGHTS**
- **CLIMATE**
- **LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS**

OUR SERVICES: IN BRIEF

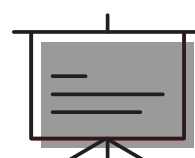
REUTERS/Amir Cohen



JOURNALISM

Reporting from the ground in more than 70 countries, our global news team covers the new frontier of human rights. From investigating slavery in supply chains, to the human impact of climate change, to how data-driven technology and AI are impacting people, we report on challenges affecting fundamental human rights and freedoms. In a rapidly-changing world, we expose undiscovered issues and voices, and examine possible solutions to some of its most pressing and complex challenges.

We adhere to the Thomson Reuters Trust Principles of integrity, independence and freedom from bias. All our news is distributed on the Reuters newswire, reaching an estimated daily audience of one billion readers.



MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

For more than 35 years, we have promoted the highest standards in journalism by training reporters around the world to cover issues relevant to their local context, accurately and impartially.

Today, we work to strengthen local and national journalism, improve media ethics, standards and regulation, combat misinformation, and explore and shape the future of the profession. We do this through newsroom consultancy, journalism training and mentoring, capacity-building, and via our funding of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford.



FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH

We run the world's largest pro bono legal network, TrustLaw. Working with leading law firms, we facilitate free legal support, groundbreaking research and resources for NGOs and social enterprises in 175 countries.

By spreading the practice of pro bono worldwide we strengthen civil society and drive social change. Our network has grown to 5,800 members, including more than 950 law firms and in-house legal teams.



CONVENING INITIATIVES

We convene experts to build global awareness of critical issues linked to our areas of work, to inspire collective leadership and to help shape a prosperous world where no one is left behind.

Our annual flagship event, Trust Conference, brings together frontline activists, thought leaders and top decision-makers in the areas of media freedom, inclusive economies, and human rights.

Other initiatives include thematic working groups convened around the world to share expertise, drive new partnerships, facilitate media coverage and produce legal research.

OUR FOCUS AREAS: IN DEPTH

**MEDIA
FREEDOM**

**INCLUSIVE
ECONOMIES**

**HUMAN
RIGHTS**

MEDIA FREEDOM

REUTERS/Mussa Qawasma

The media is a crucial pillar of any free, fair and informed society. An independent and thriving media holds governments and businesses to account and empowers citizens to make better decisions for themselves and their communities. Societies in which journalists are able to report freely and professionally are safer and more inclusive. Institutions are more transparent and accountable, and power and resources are distributed more justly.

The vital role that journalists play is increasingly under attack around the world. The profession faces unprecedented economic and technological challenges. Rising government control of the news industry, disruption of traditional business models, rapid changes in how people consume news, growing competition from alternative media, proliferation of misinformation and disinformation, and the resulting erosion of public trust in news sources undermine accurate and impartial journalism. At the same time, there has been an alarming increase in attacks on journalists globally.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We work with journalists, media managers, legal practitioners, policymakers, regulators, technologists, academia and businesses to foster a free and prosperous media ecosystem that can play a vital role in supporting democracy and development.

Our media freedom work combines our unique blend of expertise in the journalism, media development and legal fields, with the aim of:

- Strengthening local and national journalism
- Improving media ethics and standards, and combatting misinformation
- Exploring and shaping the future of the profession

OUR MEDIA FREEDOM WORK CENTRES ON THE FOLLOWING PILLARS:

**MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY
AND DEVELOPMENT**

**DEFENDING
MEDIA FREEDOM**

**STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE
OF JOURNALISM**



MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

We support local media to produce accurate, impartial and reliable journalism that bolsters government and business accountability and ensures public access to information.

Training and mentoring for journalists

We train reporters around the world, promoting integrity, independence, and freedom from bias in news reporting. The core of our training is focused on:

- Journalism ethics and standards
- Mobile journalism
- Elections reporting
- Investigative reporting
- Good governance reporting
- Anti-corruption reporting
- Environmental reporting
- Financial reporting
- Human rights
- Data and digital rights
- Equality, pluralism and social cohesion



WEALTH OF NATIONS



Despite receiving large sums of money through foreign aid and remittances, Africa loses huge amounts to illicit financial flows – money that pours out of economies through aggressive tax avoidance, corruption, smuggling, and other means, to the tune of an estimated \$30-60 billion annually. This deprives African nations of vital tax revenues that could be spent on social programmes including healthcare, education and basic infrastructure, and of funds that could otherwise be invested in projects to create jobs and drive development.

Reporting on this subject is a major challenge for journalists, as it requires specific knowledge of complex financial agreements and access to carefully hidden information. This makes corruption a largely untold story.

Our Wealth of Nations initiative aims to strengthen and scale up independent media across Africa with the goal of exposing the financial manipulations that stop the continent from flourishing. It brings together journalists and media practitioners from across the continent, to increase their investigative capacity and boost the effectiveness of newsrooms.

An investigative report by a journalist participating in *Wealth of Nations* revealed how Egypt's free-trade zone was being used as a tax haven by many companies operating there. The story, which uncovered new data about the tax evasion and ensuing loss of government revenue, was cited and praised by the Ministry of Finance when making the case for reform. Despite stiff opposition from the investment authority, the law was changed.

Wealth of Nations is supported by a grant from Norway's development agency, Norad.



Cross-border journalism networks

We connect and support journalists in different countries to exchange perspectives, share best practice and collaborate on investigative stories and other projects.



PERSPEKTIVY



Perspektivy is our professional development programme dedicated to journalists and editors from Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The initiative helps participants navigate the challenges posed by the changing news environment, with the aim of strengthening expertise and professional standards across the region and building networks of journalists in order to forge stronger local and international cohesion and understanding. The programme offers training workshops, reporting grants, one-to-one mentoring, and convenes events and networking opportunities with other journalists.

Perspektivy is supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Fritt Ord Foundation.



DEFENDING MEDIA FREEDOM

We work to create a positive environment for media to operate independently and safely, and to improve the professional and business standards of independent media in countries at risk.



REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino

Legal research and guides to promote media freedom

We work with media professionals and law firms to research media laws and regulation, to strengthen the media ecosystem and to guide journalists and media managers seeking to produce free and independent journalism.

We provide a host of resources, including tools, guides and country-level research for lawyers, media professionals and regulators.



REUTERS/Jorge Silva



CRITICS ARE NOT CRIMINALS - COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CRIMINAL DEFAMATION LAWS IN THE AMERICAS

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), in 2019 alone 250 journalists were imprisoned around the world for reporting on matters of public interest. The vast majority of those were sentenced under anti-state charges or defamation laws, which permit journalists to be prosecuted for the content of their reporting. Governments in the Americas are increasingly using these defamation laws to suppress journalists and crack down on dissent. We connected CPJ with 12 law firms, led by Debevoise & Plimpton, to research the enforcement of criminal defamation laws, uncovering best and worst practices across 33 countries in the Americas. The resulting report revealed that 32 out of the 33 countries surveyed use these laws to continue to silence journalists who are critical of politicians and public officials. This has, in some cases, led to the closure of many independent news outlets. The report has enabled the CPJ to actively advance their legal reform agenda. They have engaged in critical dialogue with governments and inter-governmental stakeholders, including discussions with the President of the Peruvian Congress about a prospective bill to decriminalise defamation.



REUTERS/Issei Kato



DEFENCE HANDBOOK FOR JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Freedom of expression and freedom of information are among the most essential human rights. These principles are enshrined in international law, and governments can be held accountable if the voices of journalists are silenced. We connected non-profit organisation Reporters Without Borders with legal firm Paul Hastings, and its international team of 70 lawyers, to develop a handbook of decisions and recommendations made by international and regional bodies and courts, relating to freedom of expression. The handbook allows journalists to work with greater confidence, knowing they are complying with international laws. It is also useful for journalists' legal representatives, who can lack expertise in international law, by allowing them to quickly access examples of relevant international cases and standards.



PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS IN THE UK: A NEW BLUEPRINT

Whistleblowing is a type of freedom of expression in which a person or group exposes illegal, unethical or incorrect information or activity within an organisation. For this reason, whistleblowers often put themselves at risk of backlash, harassment or retaliation. Until recently, despite pressure from civil society and major disclosures such as LuxLeaks and the Panama Papers, the laws protecting whistleblowers across European countries have been limited.

We connected Blueprint for Free Speech – a non-profit dedicated to improving freedom of expression – with global law firm Dechert LLP, to draft a memorandum on the legal process for creating an EU directive that could provide a more comprehensive and universal standard of protection for whistleblowers.

The legal research empowered Blueprint to inform the EU community on this process, as well as the legal arguments to improve transparency.

In April 2019, whistleblowers were, for the first time, given EU-wide protection through landmark legislation passed by the EU Parliament. The legislation shields whistleblowers from retaliation, creates 'safe channels' to allow them to report breaches of EU law, and aims to encourage reports of wrongdoing.

Convening initiatives to share best practice and strengthen the media ecosystem

We regularly bring together media practitioners, media freedom NGOs, lawyers and academics to provide practical collaborative opportunities – including partnerships, alliances, networks and events – to share best practice and develop tangible solutions to strengthen media freedom and the independent media ecosystem generally.



KURT SCHORK AWARDS IN INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM

Since 2009, we have supported and hosted the Kurt Schork Awards in International Journalism. Named in honour of American journalist Kurt Schork, who was killed in Sierra Leone while on assignment for Reuters in 2000, the three annual awards recognise the courageousness of freelance journalists, local reporters and news fixers who are reporting on conflict, corruption, human rights transgressions and other related issues.

Advisory support to independent news outlets

We provide bespoke support to media organisations on all aspects of their operations, from editorial standards and operational management to business sustainability, with the aim of strengthening independent media voices in countries where free and independent media is at risk of shrinking.



TV8 MOLDOVA

tv8

Since 2017, we have been supporting TV8 – widely regarded as the only independent media outlet in Moldova – to become financially sustainable, and, as such, a stronger provider of unbiased, high-quality news and information. Having contributed to TV8's organisational restructuring and capacity-building, we continued to deploy experienced journalists and media managers who have helped the team develop and implement a business plan, and ensure appropriate coverage of elections.

Our newsroom consultancies on editorial policy and business generation helped TV8 improve its programming, increase its audiences across all platforms and diversify its revenue to include commercial activities. As a result, TV8 has strengthened its financial sustainability and its ability to continue to hold power to account, to become one of the country's most trusted sources of political news.

In December 2018, TV8 received the Special Award 'Evolution of the Year' from the Chisinau Press Club at the Press Gala organised by the Independent Journalism Centre.

Our work with TV8 is supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the UK government.

STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

We work with journalists, editors and media executives to ensure they face the opportunities and challenges of a changing media environment from a position of strength and to help them build better and more sustainable journalism for tomorrow.



THE DIGITAL NEWS REPORT

Each year, the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ), at the University of Oxford, produces the Digital News Report, the world's largest international comparative study tracking online news access, consumption and engagement around the world. The 2019 report had a particular focus on the willingness of news audiences to pay for online news. It also looked at how news is shared and consumed within social media groups and private messaging apps, populism, perceptions of the news media, news habits among younger news consumers, and the growth of news podcasts.





Training the next generation of journalists

Since 2018, we have been partnering with the *Arab Youth Center* to deliver innovative training solutions as part of the *Youth Arab Media Leaders Programme*, an initiative aimed at educating future media leaders in the MENA region on topics ranging from media literacy to video journalism – all of which are fundamental pillars in the work of sustaining a positive media ecosystem.

We also work with academic institutions to strengthen professional development opportunities for journalists.



WHAT'S COMING UP?

Building on our solid track record in the media development and legal fields, we will continue to expand our work to advance and defend media freedom.

Currently, we are working towards:

- The creation of a global coordination network to provide legal assistance, litigation and defence to journalists and media organisations in distress.
- The launch of a Fellowship at the RISJ for journalists in distress.
- New courses looking at the legal dangers for journalists.
- Specialised training for lawyers defending media freedom.
- A research project assessing the challenges faced by journalists in developing countries.
- Additional legal support for media freedom NGOs.
- Additional legal research on matters of freedom of speech.



REUTERS/Thomas Peter

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES

REUTERS/Zohra Bensemra

There is increasing recognition that the mainstream economic model is generating a deepening divide and hurting our planet. Economies are only truly inclusive when they are equitable, participatory and sustainable, and when they respect and preserve the environment around us.

According to Oxfam, the world's 26 richest people own as much as 50% of the world's poorest. The global economy is now five times larger than it was 50 years ago, but inequality is rising, and more people are excluded than ever. Around the world, 40.3 million people live in conditions of slavery. Ten million of them are children. 24.9 million of them trapped in forced labour, hiding at the bottom of global supply chains, and some 4.8 million people are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

The climate crisis has also risen to the top of the international agenda with global efforts being undertaken by governments and businesses alike to mitigate the consequences of rising global temperatures. Companies are moving towards the adoption of international ESG standards in the effort to raise transparency and accountability towards investors and the general public. New forms of impact investment and social enterprise are being developed and scaled globally.

Meanwhile, data has become the world's most valuable commodity, and the rapid rise of unregulated technology has ushered in new forms of discrimination, challenging the traditional notions of privacy and ownership.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We work with journalists, legal practitioners, civil society, policymakers and the private sector, with the aim of combatting modern slavery, fostering fair and sustainable economic and business models, and raising awareness of the impact of technology on people, society and freedoms.

We employ a unique blend of our expertise in journalism, media development, legal research and convening, with the aim of:

- Ending modern slavery
- Fostering a fair and sustainable economic system
- Raising awareness of the impact of technology on society

OUR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES WORK CENTRES ON THE FOLLOWING PILLARS:

COMBATTING FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FOSTERING FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS MODELS

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING DATA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS



COMBATting FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

According to the International Labor Organization and Walk Free Foundation, an estimated 40.3 million people around the world are victims of modern slavery. This number includes men, women and children who are held in forced and bonded labour and forced marriages, or have been trafficked for commercial sex or domestic servitude. Slavery is a hugely profitable business, estimated to be worth \$150 billion a year.

We use our unique set of skills to support the whole anti-slavery ecosystem by raising awareness of the crime through authoritative reporting and journalism training, providing free legal assistance and research to anti-slavery organisations, and leading collaborative initiatives involving civil society, law enforcement, governments and corporations.



REUTERS/Krishnendu Halder

Award-winning journalism

We have built the world's largest news team dedicated to reporting on slavery and trafficking, with journalists located in India, Cambodia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Mexico, Brazil, the UK and the USA. Our global news coverage has successfully contributed to raising public awareness around the many and complex issues related to slavery and human trafficking.



PICKED BY SLAVES: COFFEE CRISIS BREWS IN BRAZIL

Our six-month investigation uncovered extensive slave labour running largely unchecked through Brazil's billion-dollar coffee industry, despite years of efforts to clean up the sector. Exclusively obtained data, analysis of public records, and dozens of interviews, revealed coffee produced by forced labour was stamped 'slavery-free' by top certification schemes and sold at a premium to major brands such as Starbucks and Nespresso. It was also exposed that government cuts to labour inspections had led to a sharp drop in the number of workers being rescued, leaving many without rights to a minimum wage, overtime pay, severance or state benefits. Our multimedia investigation was picked up by hundreds of international publications, reaching millions on social media.



Picked by
Slaves
Coffee crisis brews in Brazil

Journalism training

Slavery is a difficult crime to cover. It requires skills ranging from investigative reporting to a deep understanding of defamation and privacy laws, and the risks that victims incur if exposed. As a spur to better, more accurate and fair reporting on the issue, we train journalists around the world. To date, we have trained journalists in more than 20 countries, across four continents, in reporting on modern slavery and human trafficking.



REUTERS/Danish Siddiqui

Groundbreaking legal research

Modern slavery is a crime often hidden from view, and conviction rates are extremely low. International and domestic laws already exist to address various aspects of modern slavery, including human trafficking, forced labour and debt bondage. However, these laws are not applied often because the crimes are commonly misunderstood and the legislation is very difficult to enforce.

We bring together NGOs, social enterprises and law firms to map how existing laws are being used to counter modern slavery, and to identify crucial gaps in policy.

Our legal research programmes explore common trafficking and slavery scenarios across multiple countries, and examine the laws that apply to each. Our law firm members create tools to help frontline NGOs and lawyers secure more prosecutions, combat the culture of impunity for traffickers, and deliver justice for victims of trafficking and slavery.



IMPROVING WORKING STANDARDS FOR THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES

We connected Visayan Forum Foundation – a non-profit working towards ending modern-day slavery in the Philippines – with seven law firms, led by Linklaters. The lawyers conducted a critical examination of the rules and standards that protect fishers across 14 jurisdictions throughout Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa and the US.

The report revealed that one of the major hurdles for fishers was the lack of recognition as ‘employees’ and, hence, the inability to enjoy the rights and protection provided by employment laws. It also emerged that with no dedicated ministry overseeing the fishing industry in the Philippines, the responsibilities for the sector were divided up among a multitude of government agencies, which inevitably led to the policing of fishers’ rights falling through the net.

Following the publication of the research, Visayan Forum Foundation was invited to participate in the ‘pre-boarding checks’ for fishers, effectively placing the NGO in the frontline of the fight to eliminate unacceptable work practices in the fishing industry. As a result, the Department of Labour and Employment released the Philippines’ first rules and regulations governing the working and living conditions of fishers.

“ This research is vital to further our efforts in protecting and empowering marginalised fishers, as it fills an important gap in legal knowledge that we service providers don’t have. Additionally, the research gives us an opportunity to lobby for reforms, conduct dialogues and share information with our partners!

CECILIA FLORES OEBANDA,
VISAYAN FORUM FOUNDATION

REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco



Strategic initiatives

Launched in 2015, the *Stop Slavery Award* recognises companies leading the way in their efforts to limit the risk of slavery in their supply chain and operations, as well as the role they are playing as key agents in the global fight against slavery. The annual award has gone from strength to strength, most recently with the launch of new categories for 2020 that recognise the contribution of SMEs, NGOs, grassroots organisations, the public sector and journalists.

“ The Stop Slavery Award is initiating a culture where prevention of modern slavery becomes a core function of business activity and not seen merely as an audit or ancillary action that can be overlooked or ignored.

KEVIN HYLAND OBE,
FORMER UK INDEPENDENT ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER

“ The Thomson Reuters Foundation’s focus on inclusive economies is welcome – we need more ethical, sustainable and responsible distribution of value in goods and services to bring about a more fair, just and equal society.

CINDY BERMAN,
HUMAN RIGHTS, MODERN SLAVERY AND GENDER SPECIALIST



BANKS ALLIANCE

Recognising the powerful contribution the financial sector can make to the anti-trafficking movement, in 2013 the Thomson Reuters Foundation and the New York County District Attorney created the Banks Alliance Against Trafficking – a series of regional multi-stakeholder working groups that support financial institutions to fight human trafficking, using their data.

Over the past seven years, the Banks Alliance has grown to include the United States Banks Alliance, European Banks Alliance and Asia Pacific Banks Alliance. Each regional alliance has mapped the financial footprint of human trafficking in the formal banking system and produced toolkits that help financial institutions to refine their monitoring and investigation processes, and develop training programmes for staff.

All three regional toolkits have been formally endorsed by the Wolfsberg Group, the association of leading global banks that develops frameworks and guidance for the management of financial crime risks. The association recognises the benefits of using the toolkits and has urged its members and other financial institutions to put the indicators into practice, noting the importance of collaboration, information-sharing and partnership to tackle this crime.

“ The Thomson Reuters [Banks] Alliance groups now provide three Anti-Human Trafficking Toolkits, relevant across three substantial geographic regions, that are designed for specific use by banks and financial institutions in the fight against human trafficking. We positively endorse this work and the benefits of utilising these toolkits and all participants are to be congratulated on pursuing this initiative and setting an example for others to follow.

THE WOLFSBERG GROUP

REUTERS/Minzayar Oo

FOSTERING FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS MODELS

Economies can only be regarded as inclusive when they are equitable, participatory and sustainable. Inclusive economies are critical to shaping free, fair and informed societies.

Since the global adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, CEOs and business leaders have been urged to provide a new type of leadership, pivoting the focus from shareholder profit to stakeholder value.

Multi-national companies have been embracing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria, a set of standards that socially conscious investors are increasingly using to screen potential sustainable investments. Environmental criteria consider how a company performs as a steward of nature. Social criteria examine how it manages relationships with employees, suppliers, customers, and the communities where it operates. Governance deals with a company's leadership, anti-corruption mechanisms, internal controls, and shareholder rights.

In parallel, the emergence of impact investment and social entrepreneurship has introduced new ways of using business to tackle social problems. The Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) estimates the current size of the global impact investing market to be \$502 billion. We create public awareness of the importance of this emerging global sector through our journalism, and provide valuable free legal support to social enterprises around the world.

We also leverage the ESG framework to engage businesses, the legal community, policymakers, civil society and social enterprise, to foster new approaches and decision-making models that take into account economic and social justice, together with environmental sustainability.

REUTERS/Faisal Mahmood



Award-winning journalism

Through our news coverage of social innovation and inclusive economies, with a focus on vulnerable and marginalised groups, we raise public awareness of the vital contribution mission-led business and community initiatives can have on the health and wealth of society.

Our reporting also delves into the economic risks – and opportunities – that climate change presents and looks at how shifts in the way economies operate could help build a safer, fairer, greener and more resilient world for billions of people. It also examines how people – particularly the world's most vulnerable – are adapting to economic risks driven by a heating planet.

Effectively combating climate change will require large-scale shifts in global economic structures. That might include putting a price on emitting pollution that causes the planet to heat, requiring companies to report their climate risks and, in general, taking potential impacts of runaway climate change into account in economic decision-making.



TAKING THE PULSE OF SOCIAL INNOVATION

We teamed up with Deutsche Bank's Made for Good global programme to conduct the first global poll that ranked the best countries for social entrepreneurship. We conducted the poll in 2016, and repeated the survey in 2019, highlighting areas of strength and weakness in the world's 45 biggest economies and tracking changes over three years. Our findings gave social entrepreneurs, policymakers and investors an international tool for identifying best practice, leading to tangible policy improvements.

In the Netherlands, in response to our poll ranking the country poorly in 2016, its parliament committed to boosting support for social enterprise, with the goal of making the country one of the top 10 in the world for the sector.

Journalism training

In a world of information overload, we work with journalists, news organisations and partners to make sure environmental and sustainability issues remain at the top of the news agenda. Our partners include the United Nations Foundation, UNICEF and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, helping journalists write compelling stories on the Sustainable Development Goals, cover health and child immunisation in India, and understand the myriad issues affecting those in rural poverty.



REPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

We partnered with the United Nations Foundation to train more than 700 journalists, and government and non-governmental communicators from 40 countries, on how to effectively report on the Sustainable Development Goals. The programme aimed to show how integral environment and sustainability issues are to political, economic and humanitarian news stories. It also raised the profile of international development projects that are often under-reported but have the power to transform global living standards.



UNDERSTANDING THE GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE

Companies from many sectors are coming under increasing scrutiny and pressure when it comes to sustainability reporting. There is a wealth of data and information on the sustainability strategies and efforts undertaken by companies. Thorough investigation of this publicly-available information can help journalists hold organisations to account and uncover stories on a wide array of themes, be they political, financial, social or environmental. In partnership with the Global Reporting Initiative, an international independent standards organisation that helps businesses, governments and other organisations understand and communicate their impacts on issues such as climate change, human rights and corruption, we delivered an intensive workshop to journalists in India, Brazil and the Philippines. The workshop provided them with the information, tools and strategies they need to understand the complexities of sustainability and enable them to better report through that lens.



Legal research and structuring guides

We support innovative organisations that are addressing environmental, humanitarian and social problems, and strengthening the ecosystem in which they exist. We do so by providing more than 1,000 social enterprises, across 80+ countries, with pro bono legal advice from leading law firms.

We provide vital tools and resources, including guidance on navigating regulatory frameworks, accessing crowdfunding, and registering in various jurisdictions.

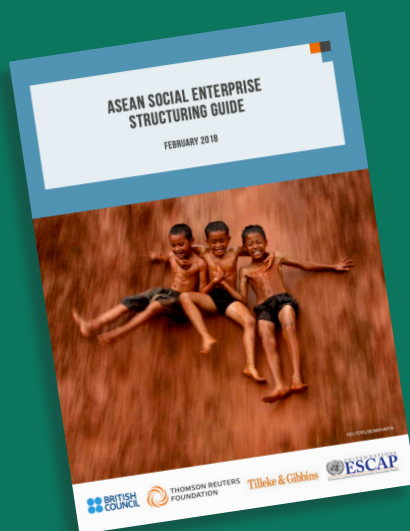
Additionally, we host accredited legal training on social enterprise and impact-investing for lawyers, which focuses on legal issues and trends in the burgeoning social innovation sector and provides lawyers with the skills and knowledge they need to advise clients.



A GUIDE TO SPEARHEADING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

In partnership with law firm Tilleke & Gibbins, the British Council, and United Nations ESCAP, we developed the ASEAN Social Enterprise Structuring Guide.

The tool sets out the relevant registration procedures, regulatory and governance considerations, tax treatment, and finance and fundraising options, with the aim of forging a better understanding of the regulatory framework for this growing sector and ensuring the sustainability, good governance and success of social ventures.



“ This guide fills a much-needed gap in the Southeast Asian social enterprise sector for practical corporate structuring advice. It identifies a very real need and offers very practical solutions. We were immensely proud to help.

ERIC M. MEYER,
TILLEKE & GIBBINS

Convening initiatives

Our annual forum *Trust Conference* convenes leading experts, activists and innovators. The 2020 *conference* will dedicate a full day to addressing the need to build more inclusive and sustainable models of growth, and will explore practical approaches to creating socio-economic opportunities for marginalised groups, as well as the transition to greener economies.

Each year, our presence at the World Economic Forum in Davos is an opportunity to engage business leaders and harness the power of this global platform to discuss and debate issues at the forefront of the drive towards more inclusive economies. Our 2020 Davos event ‘Putting Purpose into Practice’ explored how business models can shift focus from shareholders’ profit to stakeholders’ value. Co-hosted in partnership with the United Nations Foundation, our event included: Heerad Sabeti, CEO of the Fourth Sector Group; Halla Tómasdóttir, CEO of the B Team; Michelle Milford Morse, VP for Girls and Women Strategy at the United Nations Foundation; Debra Walton, Chief Revenue Officer at Refinitiv; and Amitabh Behar, CEO of Oxfam India.



PROTECTING AND PROMOTING DATA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

Data has become the world's most valuable commodity. Economists have called it the 'oil of the 21st Century'. But, unlike oil, data is a renewable source made by people who are constantly giving it away.

By 2035, the world will have a trillion connected computers. This new wave of computerisation is often referred to as 'the internet of things' (IoT). The ethical, practical and legal ramifications of the IoT are complex and crucial. The implications for people's lives are immense.

Digital rights are a new frontier of human rights. We use all our services to raise awareness of the global impact of technology on people and society, providing legal frameworks and practical solutions to help navigate this constantly-evolving ecosystem. Our specific focus is on matters related to data privacy, data ownership and data-led discrimination.

Groundbreaking journalism

In a world where digital technology is increasingly pervasive, our reporting uncovers the impact of data, algorithms and artificial intelligence (AI) on people's lives and society.

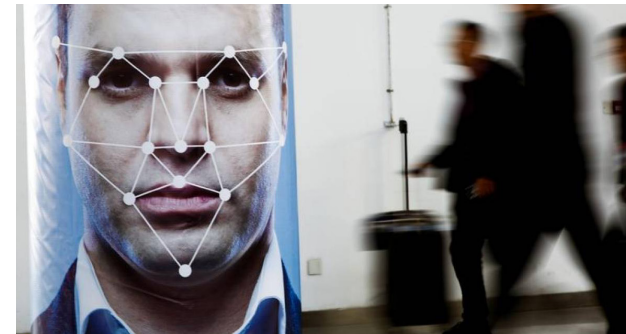
With new technological challenges constantly arising, our stories look at how people, governments and companies are adapting and responding in this uncharted digital environment.

Examples of our work include:



UNDER WATCH: INDIAN CITY WORKERS PROTEST DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE

“ An increasing number of municipal workers across India are protesting the linking of surveillance data to performance and salaries.



WILD WEST: CAUTION URGED ON FACIAL RECOGNITION ROLLOUT IN U.S. SCHOOLS

“ Rising numbers of schools are using facial recognition amid calls for strict regulation on its use.



'VISIBLE WOMEN': FEMINIST MAPPERS BRIDGE DATA GAP IN URBAN DESIGN

“ Women mappers add services often overlooked by men, such as hospitals or toilets, and also tend to focus more on safety.



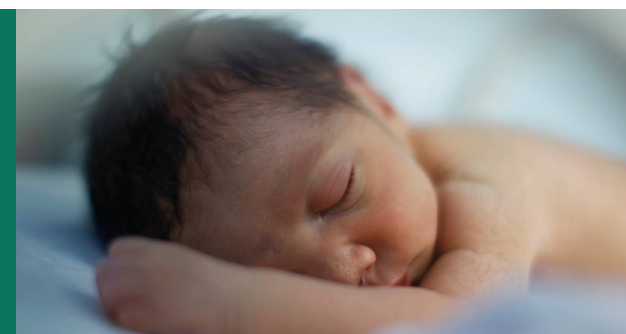
TEN YEARS ON, INDIA'S BIOMETRIC ID EXCLUDES HOMELESS, TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

“ India's Aadhaar ID is the world's largest biometric identity system but an estimated 102 million people, including many homeless and transgender people, are being left out.



PRIVACY FEARS AS INDIA HAND STAMPS SUSPECTED CORONAVIRUS CASES

“ To help enforce quarantines, those suspected of having coronavirus get hand stamps and are being tracked using their phones and data.



SMART CAMERAS AND BABY MONITORS VULNERABLE TO HACKERS, WARNS UK CYBER SECURITY AGENCY

“ National Cyber Security Centre says flaws in smart home devices could let hackers spy on families and access live feeds of children sleeping.

Legal research

Our legal research enables our NGO and social enterprise members to navigate the often uncharted and challenging territory of data regulation and legislation, allowing them to remain compliant and improve their organisational robustness.



SUPPORTING THE NGO SECTOR IN NAVIGATING THE EU GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force in 2018, introduced strict obligations in relation to the processing of personal data. Civil society organisations are subject to GDPR regulation but often lack the legal guidance needed to translate the new requirements into practical outcomes.

We published two guides and delivered webinar training for NGOs and social enterprises to help them understand how to comply:

[Data Protection: A Guide for Charities and Non-Governmental Organisations](#)

[Impact of the EU General Data Protection Regulation on NGOs in Latin America](#)



Convening initiatives

Each year at the Trust Conference we convene digital rights experts, lawyers, policymakers, technologists and data rights NGOs to highlight and explore the many intersections between human rights and technology. From issues of data ownership to whether we need to radically redefine our notions of privacy and consent in this digital age, the event offers a unique opportunity to dissect and make sense of some of the most complex human rights issues of our time.

Additionally, throughout the year we host seminars and events in partnership with digital rights NGOs, such as an event held in the Netherlands looking at the implications of domestic laws that expand the powers of civil and military intelligence services to collect data en masse, titled *'What does the secret service know about you?'*



WHAT'S COMING UP?

Building on our solid track record, we will continue to expand our work to foster inclusive economies globally.

Currently, we are working towards:

- The creation of a news team dedicated to the coverage of data and digital rights.
- Additional news coverage of issues relating to socio-economic inclusion, ESGs and the green economy.
- Journalism training on data rights, socio-economic inclusion, sustainability and ESGs.
- The launch of in-country multi-stakeholder convening initiatives (in Mexico and India) to raise awareness of forced labour and foster strategic collaboration.
- The launch of a multi-stakeholder ESG taskforce including – among others – civil society, the financial sector and international law firms.
- Additional legal support for social enterprises and NGOs working on socio-economic inclusion.
- Additional legal support for data and digital rights NGOs.
- Additional legal research on matters of data ownership, privacy and discrimination.



HUMAN RIGHTS

REUTERS/Mariana Greif

Human rights are inalienable, universal rights belonging to every single human being, irrespective of race, religion or creed. These rights are firmly enshrined in international law, most notably in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which has been ratified by most national governments around the world. Human rights are fundamental to our mission because societies cannot be free, fair or equal without respect for these rights.

For as long as the Thomson Reuters Foundation has existed, protecting and advancing human rights has been at the core of our work. Whether it be reporting on hidden human rights issues, training journalists around the world to do the same, providing free legal support and impactful research to frontline organisations, or convening diverse and global actors in this space, all our work has been focused on empowering individuals and helping to strengthen free, fair and informed societies. While human rights underpin all of what we do, our work is grounded in the *Thomson Reuters Trust Principles* of independence, integrity, and freedom from bias.

The fight to secure or defend human rights around the world is ongoing, with basic freedoms and access to necessities being eroded, threatened or failing to exist entirely. At the same time, the technological revolution has created multiple evolving and complex threats to human rights – with grave concerns about privacy, discrimination and exploitation, to name but a few.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We work to shape public discourse about new and ongoing human rights issues through our own news coverage as well as our journalism training, legal support and research for NGOs influencing policy change, and by seeking out experts and activists with whom we can work to advance human rights, with the aim of:

- Highlighting some of the most critical human rights issues
- Driving policy change to advance human rights
- Leading collaborative approaches to amplify impact at scale

OUR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK CENTRES ON THEMATIC ISSUES INCLUDING:

- FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION
- FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- DATA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS
- WOMEN'S RIGHTS
- LGBT+ RIGHTS
- CLIMATE
- LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS



This section outlines our approach to all the thematic issues within the focus area of human rights.

Award-winning journalism

Our global news team covers the new frontier of human rights. From reporting on slavery in supply chains to the human impact of climate change, to issues affecting the LGBT+ community and women, we highlight the lives of the billions of people around the world who struggle to live freely and are unable to live fairly.



BLOOD MICA

We investigated India's illegal mica mines in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, to reveal that children as young as five had been working to source the shiny mineral that puts the sparkle in make-up and paint. Our three-month multimedia investigation also found that seven children had died in the mines, and that their deaths had been covered up by their own parents for fear of retaliation and financial losses. The findings were backed up by India's child protection group Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) – the organisation funded by Nobel Peace laureate Kailash Satyarthi – which separately documented more than 20 mica-related deaths in June 2016. Our investigation received worldwide coverage, and a few weeks after its publication the biggest carmaker in the world, Volkswagen, announced it had suspended ties with some mica suppliers in India. India's Ministry of Mines admitted it lacked an effective mechanism to inspect the mica mines.

Blood Mica

Deaths of child workers in India's mica "ghost" mines covered up to keep industry alive

Reporting: Nita Bhalla, Rina Chandran, Anuradha Nagaraj
Editing: Belinda Goldsmith
Multimedia: Tristan Martin, Judite Ferreira
Photography: Vivek Muthuramalingam, Nita Bhalla
3 August 2016





MISSING WOMBS: INDIA'S HEALTH SCANDAL

Our investigation, 'Missing Wombs: The health scandal enslaving families in rural India', into unnecessary hysterectomies forcing Indian women and their families into debt and bonded labour, was spotted by the head of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women, which submitted the story to central government to show it is a pan-India problem. This led to the country's health ministry setting up an expert committee to tackle the problem.

India's tourism ministry launched a campaign throughout the government's overseas offices to highlight that women are safe in India, after our 2018 poll of experts ranked the nation as the most dangerous country for women. A letter sent three weeks after our poll to all Indian diplomatic missions, trade and hospitality organisations, and tourism offices, listed a series of safety initiatives taken since the fatal gang-rape of a student in New Delhi in December 2012, and urged government offices to publicise these facts to address concerns people may have.

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION/Roli Srivastava



Coverage of the LGBT+ community tends to be conducted through an LGBT+ lens, resulting in an 'echo chamber' approach. This has created the perception that LGBT+ news is akin to advocacy and lacks journalistic authority. LGBT+ news is also provided by a limited number of small web-only outlets, predominantly offering content with a US or UK focus. There was a therefore a clear gap in the market for an authoritative digital platform offering fair, accurate and balanced news reporting that reflects the issues affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community around the world.

In 2018, we created *Openly* for this very purpose. Openly is a global digital platform delivering fair, accurate and impartial LGBT+ news to a world that isn't. Powered by original coverage from the Thomson Reuters Foundation, Openly also aggregates select LGBT+ news and authoritative reports from other sources, with the ambition of becoming the ultimate destination for trusted LGBT+ news and information from around the world.



BRUNEI AND UGANDA'S DEATH PENALTY LAWS FOR LGBT+ PEOPLE

We were the first to break the news, in March 2019, that *Brunei planned to implement delayed changes to its law introducing stoning to death and whipping for gay sex and adultery*. Our story was picked up and published in a long list of other national and international publications, leading to a global backlash and boycott of Brunei-owned businesses that led to the proposed changes being shelved.

We were first globally with the news that *Uganda was going reintroduce a bill to parliament that would impose the death penalty for gay sex*. As a result of our coverage all major aid donors to Uganda expressed concern and outrage, prompting the government to announce that there would be no such bill.

Groundbreaking legal research

Our pro bono legal network connects organisations working at the frontline of advancing human rights around the world, with lawyers who can assist with their legal needs for free.



ENDING FGM IN AFRICA

Across the African continent, 55 million girls are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), half of whom live in three countries that already have legislation around the practice.

We connected 28 Too Many – a UK-based charity working to eradicate FGM in the 28 African countries in which it is still practised – with a team of more than 120 lawyers. Coordinated by law firm Latham & Watkins, the team worked tirelessly to produce *ground-breaking reports* that highlight examples of best practice, lessons learned, and recommendations for the formation of sound legal frameworks that will contribute to the global elimination of FGM. The resulting reports are already having an impact in multiple African countries and are being used by a range of stakeholders. In Kenya, the country report is helping local and international FGM activists in a court case against Kenyan medic, Dr Tatu Kamau. In Egypt, it has been used in conversation with parliamentarians, and in Geneva 28 Too Many presented their findings to the Human Rights Council.



ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE US

It's increasingly recognised worldwide that child marriage, defined as a formal marriage or informal union before the age of 18, is a human rights violation and a serious barrier to socio-economic development. The US named the fight against child marriage as a foreign policy objective, yet the early or forced marriage of children is ongoing in the country. While most US states set 18 as the minimum age for marriage, exceptions in every jurisdiction exist. According to marriage licence data collected by advocacy group Unchained At Last, the only US non-profit dedicated to ending child and forced marriage in the country, more than 167,000 children as young as 12 were married in 38 states in the US between 2000 and 2010. The organisation estimates nearly a quarter of a million children were married across all US states between 2000 and 2010.

We connected Unchained At Last with law firm White & Case, to assist with free legal advice to underpin their advocacy efforts and outlaw child marriage in New Jersey. Following months of campaigning by the group, in November 2016 the New Jersey Assembly voted in favour of the new law, and in March 2017 the bill was passed by the state senate. Unchained at Last continues its partnership with White & Case, writing, introducing and advocating for legislation, state by state, to ensure that the entire country enshrines 18 as the absolute minimum age for marriage in law, with no exceptions allowed. The scope of the pro bono research has since been expanded to cover other US states, including California, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.



REUTERS/Suhaib Salem

REUTERS/Kacper Pempel



PROTECTING VICTIMS OF SEXTORTION WORLDWIDE

‘Sextortion’ is a pervasive, yet under-reported, form of corruption involving sexual exploitation, such as: judges demanding sex in exchange for visas or favourable custody decisions; landlords threatening to evict tenants unless they have sex with them; supervisors making job security contingent on sex; and principals conditioning student graduation on sex. Today the crime has become digital, and women, as well as children, are especially vulnerable.

In 2015, in collaboration with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and a global team of law firms (Marval, O’Farrell and Mairal, Hogan Lovells, Mishcon De Reya, Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa, Simba & Simba Advocates, Torys LLP and Rakhee Ditta), we launched the guide ‘Combating Sextortion: A Comparative Study of Laws to Prosecute Corruption Involving Sexual Exploitation’. The study outlined laws and practices relating to the crime in nine jurisdictions, spanning six continents: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Mexico, Taiwan, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

In 2016, together with Legal Momentum and law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, we produced a report entitled ‘A Call to Action: Ending ‘Sextortion’ in the Digital Age’, taking a more specific look at the United States and at how sextortion has evolved.

Following the publication of the research, Legal Momentum and Orrick embarked on a nation-wide advocacy campaign to update state laws to take into account ‘sextortion’. Within a few months, Utah, Arkansas and Alabama had passed the first pieces of legislation in the US which make ‘sextortion’ a punishable crime.

“ The Thomson Reuters Foundation has been instrumental in helping us launch and sustain cutting-edge projects that protect the rights of girls and women both nationally and internationally.

CAROL ROBLES-ROMÁN,
PRESIDENT AND CEO, LEGAL MOMENTUM



BAN ON CONVERSION THERAPY FOR LGBT YOUTH IN ILLINOIS

We connected LGBT-rights NGO Equality Illinois and international law firm Kirkland & Ellis, which produced legal research used to advocate for the ban of conversion therapy for LGBT youth in Illinois. The research looked at federal and state laws regarding the ban of gay conversion therapy as well as the gay and transgender ‘panic defence’, a tactic invoked against charges of assault or murder where the defendant claims to have acted in a state of temporary insanity triggered by the victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity. In May 2015, the Youth Mental Health Protection Act was passed, banning the practice of conversion therapy on minors in the state of Illinois. Equality Illinois continued to advocate for a bill to make the ‘gay panic’ defence inadmissible in the courts of Illinois, and succeeded when it was officially banned in August 2017.



REUTERS/Mike Blake



ENSURING JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS OF ACID VIOLENCE

Acid violence is on the rise, with several thousand attacks occurring across the world every year. However, only a few countries have passed specific laws in relation to the crime. One of the biggest challenges faced by NGOs working on this issue is a lack of information on the effectiveness of existing laws and the way they have been interpreted by the courts. We connected Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI) with Baker & McKenzie, J. Sagar Associates, Linklaters and P&A Asia, to produce a comparative study on laws and case law relating to acid violence. The result was the groundbreaking report, 'Justice? What justice? Tackling acid violence and ensuring justice for survivors', which analyses data from four different jurisdictions – Cambodia, Colombia, India and the United Kingdom – presenting a comparative legislative framework to assess how acid attack survivors are treated and how perpetrators are punished.

The report is now being used by ASTI as an advocacy tool to secure political and judiciary support and to ensure justice for the survivors of acid violence worldwide. In 2018, after a series of meetings and consultations with ASTI and other stakeholders, the UK Home office announced a series of significant policy changes, including but not limited to listing acid as a potentially dangerous weapon in sentencing guidelines and, under changes to the Poisons Act, requiring members of the public wishing to import, acquire or use sulphuric acid above 15% have to obtain a Home Office licence.

“ The report informed much of our work when developing policy briefings for parliamentarians and representatives from the British government’s Home Office. It proved essential to ASTI’s advocacy and awareness-raising work.

JAF SHAH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASTI

REUTERS/Damir Sagolj



Journalism training

We run courses and mentorship programmes to help journalists navigate the complexities of reporting human rights issues, from trafficking and slavery to women’s rights and LGBT+ issues. All courses are tailored to the needs relating to the geographic areas in which the journalists operate.



STATELESS UZBEK WOMAN IN KYRGYZSTAN AWARDED CITIZENSHIP

Journalists participating in our Perspektiv programme, which aims to strengthen independent media in Russian-speaking countries through workshops, mentoring and network-building, uncovered the plight of 17,000 stateless Uzbek women fighting to gain citizenship and social rights in Kyrgyzstan. The investigation attracted global media attention and led the President of Kyrgyzstan to grant citizenship to the protagonist of the film.

Strategic initiatives

The unique approach underpinning the Foundation's strategic initiatives is to harness the combined power of the media and the law. Using our expertise in these areas, we deploy all our services in the design and execution of initiatives to maximise impact.



FIGHTING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOUR IN AFRICA

We are collaborating with a consortium of partners led by World Vision UK and including War Child UK, Columbia University, the UN Global Compact Network and Fifty Eight, on a large-scale project supported by the UK government's Department for International Development (DfID), to combat the worst forms of child labour in Africa. The four-year Aid Connect initiative, launched in October 2018, focuses on Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR) and leverages cross-sector partnerships between NGOs, law enforcement and global corporations, while building children's agency to advocate for their own rights.

By addressing the management of global supply chains – which has to date failed to eliminate child labour – strengthening legislative frameworks, shedding light on the issue through media coverage and empowering survivors to articulate their experiences, the project aims to change the lives thousands of children, while simultaneously building a knowledge base for what types of intervention are most effective in tackling the problem. The work includes mobilising the business sector to examine its supply chains, identify and share best practice and strengthen its own operations accordingly, as well as supporting local lawyers, policymakers and other government officials to help tackle the worst forms of child labour at a national level.

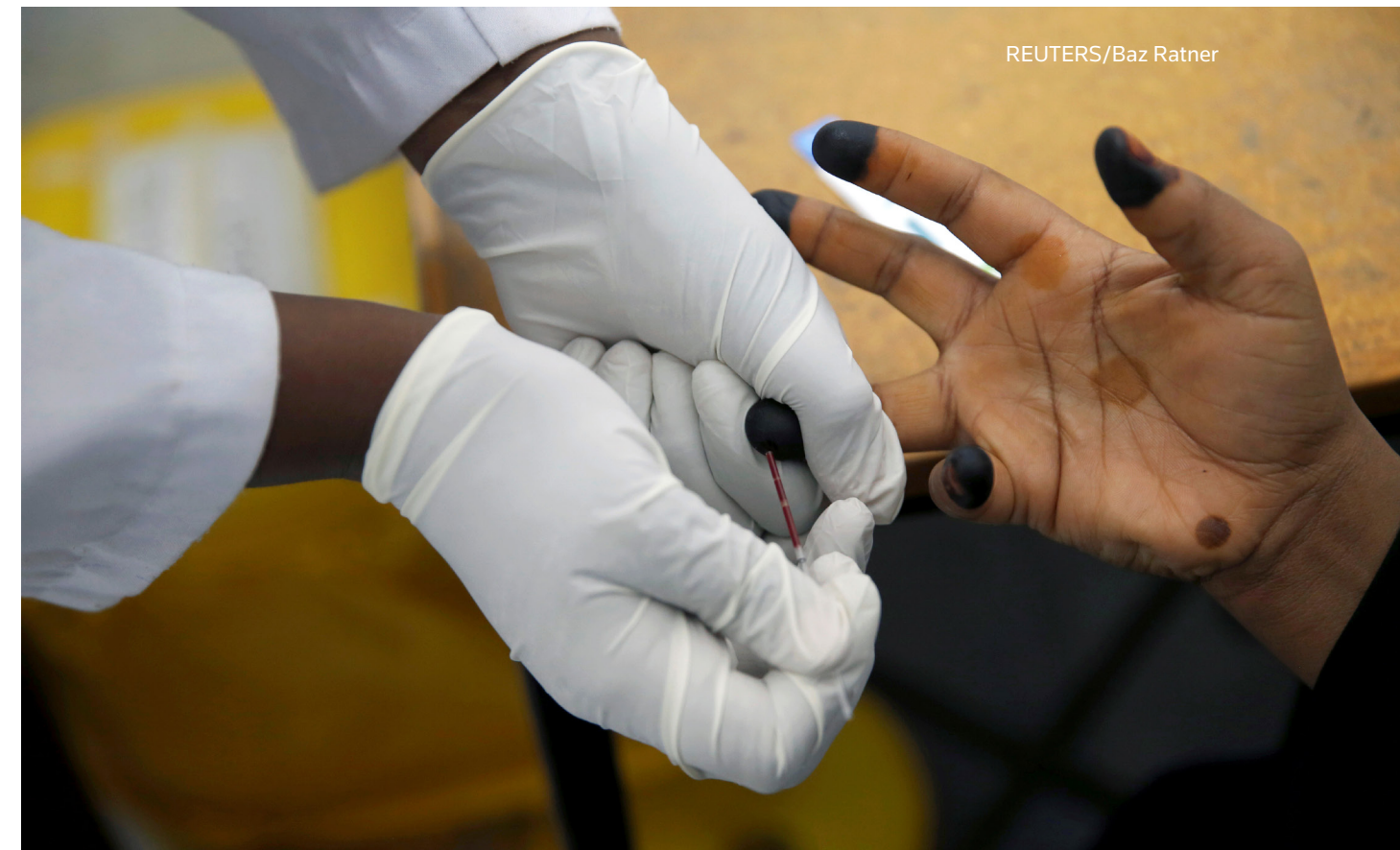


Partnership Against
Child Exploitation

[OVERVIEW](#) [PARTNERS](#) [COUNTRIES](#) [FOCUS AREAS](#) [CONTACT US](#)

How to protect children from the worst forms of child labour?

The Partnership Against Child Exploitation (PACE) is a ground-breaking partnership of private sector, academic, media development and civil society organisations working together to combat the exploitation of children in the worst forms of child labour.



REUTERS/Baz Ratner



BREAKING DOWN HUMAN RIGHTS BARRIERS TO ACCESSING HEALTHCARE

We are working in partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to support its innovative 'Breaking Down Barriers' initiative, with a focus on gender and LGBT+ human rights-related barriers. The Foundation is facilitating legal research and legal capacity-building for civil society partners in key countries supported by the Global Fund. This includes pro bono research on human rights laws, as well as capacity-building workshops for health practitioners, service providers and their clients, and legal guidance for NGOs and civil society groups working in countries with challenging political situations.

The programme also provides training for journalists across eastern and southern Africa to strengthen reporting skills on human rights and health-related issues, and to support awareness-raising on human rights-related barriers to health.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Building on our solid track record, we will continue to shed a light on human rights issues globally, strengthen and scale up our free legal assistance to human rights organisations, conduct cutting-edge legal research, offer training and mentoring to journalists to better understand human rights-related issues, and convene experts from across sectors to scope and drive forward impactful initiatives.

Currently, we are working towards:

- The creation of multiple digital news products addressing the new frontier of human rights, looking at rapidly developing socio-economic, environmental and technological human rights issues, and focusing on the lives of people who struggle to live freely and under fair circumstances.
- Specialised training for journalists covering human rights issues.
- Additional legal support for human rights NGOs.
- Additional legal research to shape policy around human rights issues.

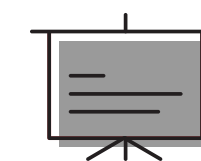


OUR SERVICES: IN DEPTH

REUTERS/Jorge Dan Lopez



JOURNALISM



MEDIA DEVELOPMENT



FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE



CONVENING INITIATIVES

Through journalism, media development, free legal assistance and convening initiatives, we combine our unique services to drive systemic change.

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION NEWS

Home Coronavirus Women Climate Slavery Land Cities Technology LGBT+ Economies More

U.S. eases ban on gay blood donors amid coronavirus

Good news coronavirus stories you might have missed this week

El Salvador non-profit steers youth away from crime

World risks 'sleepwalking into surveillance' due to coronavirus

Armed with good data, engineers wage quiet battle for cleaner air

Climate disasters seen increasing conflict risk in large countries

Trans people in legal limbo under Latin American lockdowns

Climate and coronavirus: Experts react as COP26 postponed

Coronavirus: Our latest stories

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JOURNALISM



Reporting from the ground in more than 70 countries, our global news team reports on the new frontier of human rights, covering the lives of the billions of people around the world who struggle to live freely and are unable to live fairly. From investigating slavery in supply chains and the human impact of climate change, to how data-driven technology and AI are impacting people, we report on challenges affecting fundamental human rights and freedoms. In a rapidly-changing world, we expose undiscovered issues and voices, and examine possible solutions to some of its most pressing and complex challenges.

We adhere to the Thomson Reuters Trust Principles of integrity, independence and freedom from bias. All of our news is distributed on the Reuters wire, reaching an estimated daily audience of one billion readers.

TESTIMONIALS

...ON OUR 'MISSING WOMBS' INVESTIGATION

“ The Foundation’s investigation gave us an in-depth understanding of the problem and its link to debt bondage. That link was made for the first time. We are keen to find a solution.

DINESH BASWAL,

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF MATERNAL HEALTH IN INDIA’S HEALTH MINISTRY



...ON OUR EXPOSE OF BRUNEI’S ANTI-LGBT+ LAWS

“ Your article helped us make a case for a full statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michele Bachelet. Yesterday afternoon, OHCHR Geneva sent out a new release which we distributed regionally. My colleagues tell me it had a good international media response. We’re really grateful to you for helping us raise the alarm on such an important issue.

XABIER CELAYA,

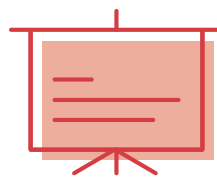
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS SPOKESPERSON



More than 50 correspondents across five continents, supported by a network of 200+ freelancers, enable us to cover unique and original stories globally.



■ MEDIA DEVELOPMENT



For more than 35 years, we have promoted the highest standards in journalism by training reporters around the world to cover issues relevant to their local context, accurately and impartially. Today, we work to strengthen local and national journalism, improve media ethics, standards and regulation, combat misinformation, and explore and shape the future of the profession. We do this through newsroom consultancy, capacity building, journalism training and mentoring, and via our funding of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford.

TESTIMONIALS

Mercy Adhiambo, participant in Reporting on Illicit Finance mentoring scheme, Johannesburg, South Africa:

“ Being a features writer in a newsroom dominated by males who constantly remind us that a woman has no space in doing investigative stories can sometimes have the idea reinforced so much in us that it becomes difficult to shake it off. I am glad that I did the story. The programme has awakened my desire to keep writing, at a time when I was almost giving up on journalism.

Shamsuddin Illius, participant in Reporting on Migration and Slavery workshop, Dhaka, Bangladesh:

“ The course equipped me with the tools to come out with a perfect story in an unbiased way, maintaining the ethics which play a positive role in the life of survivors of... migration and slavery.

Participant, Mobile Journalism Training workshop, Suva, Fiji:

“ Mobile journalism skills are vital in an era where mobile phones have become part and parcel of one's life. Getting the news out quicker in a way that still adheres to journalism ethics and conduct is also a challenge for most journalists. This particular training allowed us to re-examine the way news is produced using a mobile phone, and present the news in an effective and compelling way while still maintaining journalism integrity.

Agnieszka Romaszewska-guzy and Aleksy Dzikawicki, Director and Deputy Director of Belsat:

“ The newsroom interventions designed by the Thomson Reuters Foundation changed our way of thinking and opened our eyes on many topics – from news planning and newsgathering, to digital production and management techniques. We understand this is only the beginning of a very exciting journey toward upgrading Belsat, particularly its news division.



16,000+
JOURNALISTS
TRAINED

15+
NEWSROOM
CONSULTANCIES

117
COUNTRIES
HOSTING OUR
COURSES

900+
MENTORING
HOURS

11
TRAINING LANGUAG-
ES, INCLUDING AR-
ABIC, RUSSIAN AND
MANDARIN

70+
JOURNALISM
COURSES

5
MULTI-YEAR IMPACT
PROGRAMMES

4
INDEPENDENT NEWS
PLATFORMS SET UP IN
IRAQ, EGYPT,
ZIMBABWE AND
MYANMAR



FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE



We run the world's largest pro bono legal network, TrustLaw. Working with leading law firms, we facilitate free legal support, groundbreaking research and resources for NGOs and social enterprises in 175 countries. By spreading the practice of pro bono worldwide we strengthen civil society and drive social change. Our network has grown to 5,800 members, including more than 950 law firms and in-house legal teams.

TESTIMONIALS

Alex Radcliffe, Professional Support Lawyer and Managing Pro Bono Lawyer, UK, Cooley (UK) LLP:

“ Cooley has, over a couple of years, developed an excellent relationship with TrustLaw. The opportunities it provides our lawyers to work on important projects for exceptional clients such as Surviving Economic Abuse is invaluable. The process of bidding for legal projects is straightforward and transparent. The team is highly responsive and provides support whenever required. We have had consistently positive experiences in all our interactions.

Annette Bain, Pro Bono Counsel – Asia, DLA Piper:

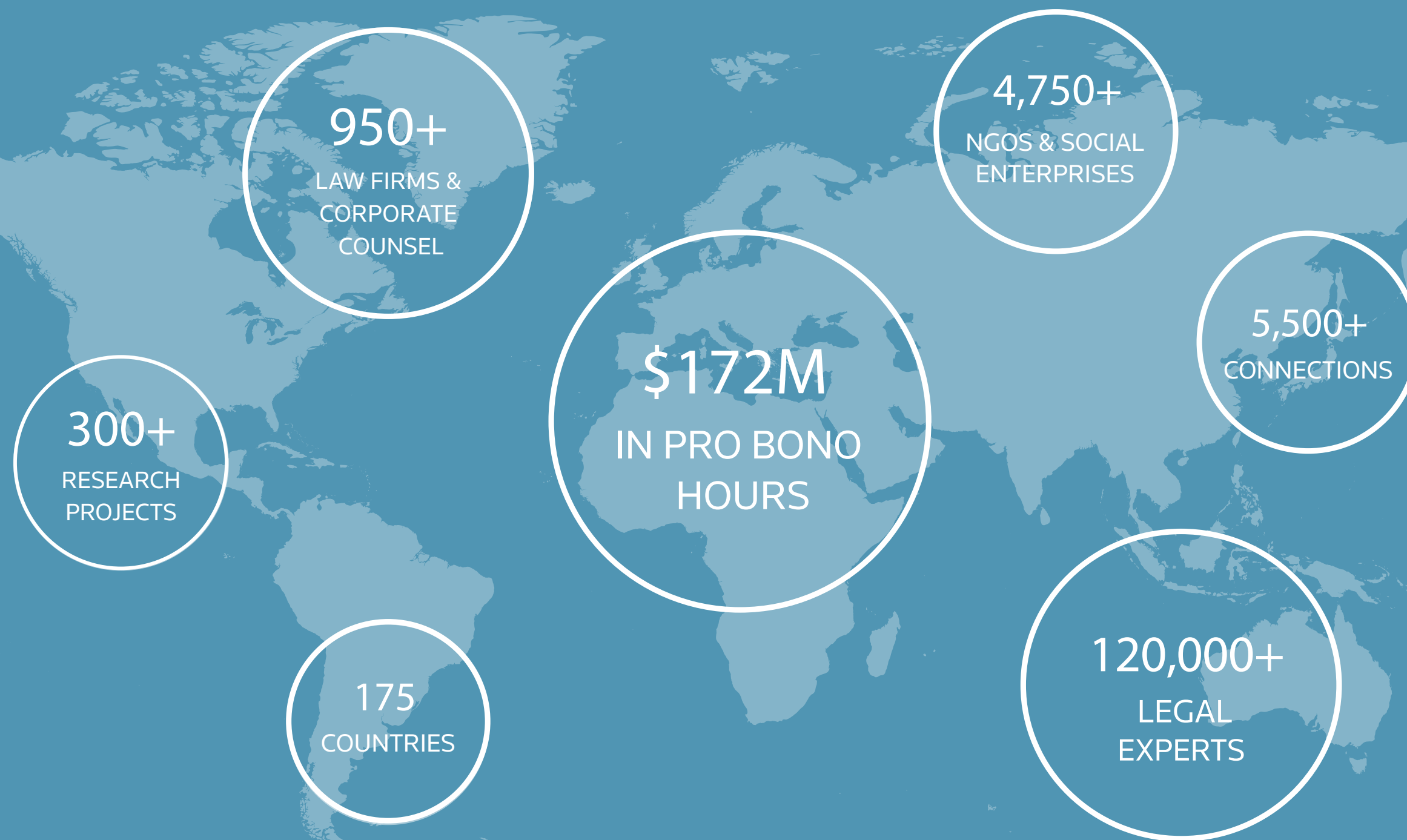
“ The Rights to Work project was a complex collaboration of lawyers from many organisations, law firms and corporate counsel. From introduction to completion, this could not have happened without TrustLaw's vision and expertise. Pulling all that together required significant project management across several jurisdictions, and TrustLaw was amazing, weaving together the different expectations and experiences of the parties involved.

Wendy Atrokhov, Public Service Counsel, Latham & Watkins:

“ We could not accomplish what we do globally without our partnership with TrustLaw. It provides critical legal services to hundreds of social enterprises, charities and non-profits, and enables lawyers to experience the joy and gratification of engaging in pro bono work, in some cases for the very first time.

Nick Broad, Co-Founder, The Busking Project:

“ Ideally, we'd live in a world where lawyers weren't necessary, or if they were, they'd be free, so we're all on a level playing field. Unfortunately, we live in a world where lawyers are expensive and indispensable.... so thank God something like TrustLaw exists. They provided our small, nascent non-profit with free legal experts to help us with an issue we simply couldn't have dealt with ourselves, and who stuck with us while the project morphed and dragged on. Highly recommended, a zillion stars.



CONVENING INITIATIVES



We convene experts to build global awareness of critical issues linked to our areas of work, to inspire collective leadership and to help shape a prosperous world where no one is left behind.

Our annual flagship event, Trust Conference, brings together frontline activists, thought leaders and top decision-makers in the areas of media freedom, inclusive economies, and human rights.

Other initiatives include thematic working groups convened around the world to share expertise, drive new partnerships, facilitate media coverage and produce legal research.



trust conference

INFORM. CONNECT. EMPOWER.

Our annual human rights forum brings together leading experts, NGOs and decision-makers across the three thematic focus areas of the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Trust Conference 2019 featured 47 experts in the fields of economics, technology, law, journalism and human rights.

2019 highlights

- Keynotes from **Tina Tchen**, CEO of TIME'S UP, and **Jim Smith**, CEO of Thomson Reuters.
- Cutting-edge visual presentation from **Josh Haner**, staff photographer and senior editor for photo technology at The New York Times, and **Eyal Weizman**, Director of Forensic Architecture at Goldsmiths, University of London.
- Hard-hitting personal stories by speakers including leading journalists **Jason Rezaian**, **Maria Ressa**, **Matthew Caruana Galizia** and **Natalia Morari**, Uyghur activist **Ferkat Jawdat**, and Taliban attack survivor **Ahmad Nawaz**.
- An 'in conversation' session with heavyweights **Dean Baquet**, Executive Editor of The New York Times, and **Steve Adler**, Editor in Chief of Reuters.

trust conference

CHANGEMAKERS

The Trust Conference Changemakers Programme funds frontline activists and human rights defenders from around the world to attend the event.

All Changemakers take part in an intensive training day to learn key skills, ranging from fundraising to public speaking to data visualisation.

A select group of Changemakers is then featured on the main stage, in standalone sessions, on both days of the Trust Conference.

In 2019, we received almost 5,000 applications and awarded 60 scholarships to applicants from more than 40 countries.



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Susan Gibson & Mark Bergman

Trixie Brenninkmeijer

EVENT PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



Thought leadership events

In 2019, we held four thought leadership events in conjunction with Trust Conference:



Putting 'wellbeing' at the centre of the economic system



facebook



Elections, democracy and technology



Google News Initiative

Advancing media literacy in a digital world



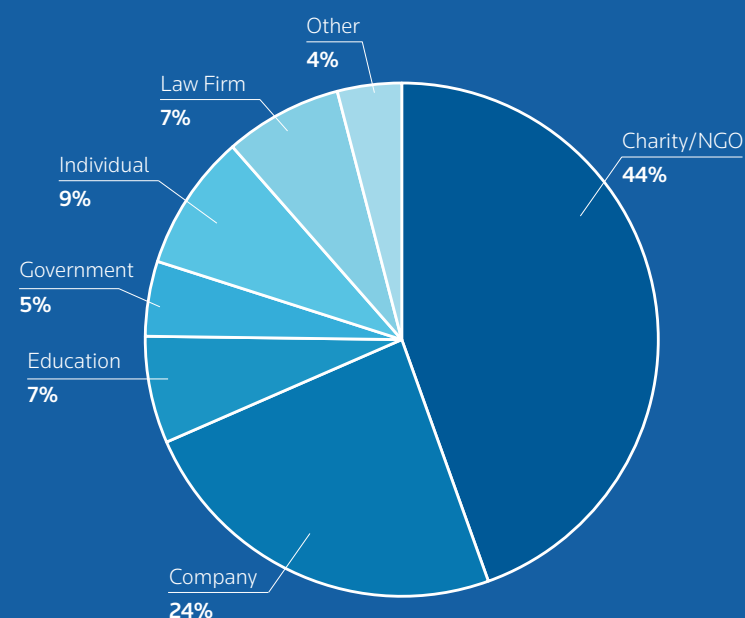
Social

#TrustConf19 was trending at #1 on Twitter, on day two of the conference.



Attendees

Nearly 600 attendees from more than 60 countries:



Organisations included the British Council, PwC, Barclays, UNHCR, Aldi, FCO, Allen and Overy, Gucci, Airbnb, Lumos, DFID, Uni of Oxford, LSE, BBC Media Action, and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights.

Feedback

“ Humbling to be surrounded by world changers ”

“ Hard hitting ”

“ Inspiring ”

“ Excellent networking and interesting speakers ”

“ A fantastic learning forum ”

“ Unforgettable ”

“ A very slick and impressive event with impressive speakers ”

“ Life changing ”

“ Worth every penny ”

“ It was worth coming to London to take part – a great experience ”

“ A real high-quality conference for human rights defenders ”

“ Thought-provoking and energising ”



■ REUTERS INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF JOURNALISM

We are the core funder of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. The institute is dedicated to exploring the future of journalism worldwide, through debate, engagement and research. Part of the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford, its core activities include: producing independent research into issues facing journalism and news media around the world; media leadership programmes that bring senior media managers and editors together to exchange best practice and benefit from the institute's research and expert insights; and the Journalist Fellowship Programme, which welcomes practising mid-career journalists to the institute for one to three terms, to engage in seminars and discussions to produce a supervised academic research paper.



PROFESSOR RASMUS KLEIS NIELSEN
DIRECTOR

“ Based on core funding from the Thomson Reuters Foundation, which provides the foundation of everything we do, we have in the last year hosted more than 50 journalists from all over the world, convened almost 100 senior industry leaders for private, off-the-record discussions in Oxford, and published research that informs decision-making from newspaper offices to media regulators to Silicon Valley.

From panel discussions in Davos to informal discussions at the Press Club in Delhi, from public presentations at the World News Media Congress to private discussions with top editors, tech executives and policymakers, our journalist fellows and alumni, the editors and executives with whom we work, and our own staff, are at the forefront of discussions about how we protect media freedom and ensure that the journalism of tomorrow is even better than the one we have today.

This way we can help journalists build communities and networks that provide them with solidarity when things are difficult, and hope to inspire the fight for a better future. That way we can confront the many challenges ahead together, and do so with cautious optimism, even confidence. None of it would be possible without the Thomson Reuters Foundation's support, and we are proud to be part of how it supports free, trusted, and independent media across the world. ”

The Digital News Report

The Reuters Institute's *Digital News Report* is the world's largest international comparative study tracking online news access and engagement around the world. The 2019 report had a particular focus on the willingness of news audiences to pay for online news. It also looked at how news is shared and consumed within social media groups and private messaging apps, populism, perceptions of the news media, news habits among younger news consumers, and the growth of news podcasts.

The latest report found limited growth in the numbers of people willing to pay for online news through either subscriptions, donations or memberships. Even in countries with higher levels of paying customers, the vast majority said they pay for just one news brand. The report found Facebook is still the dominant social media platform for news, though others are gaining ground. WhatsApp has become a primary network for sharing and discussing news in several countries in the Global South including Brazil, South Africa and Malaysia. In many such countries, people are more likely to be members of private messaging groups with people they don't know potentially facilitating the spread of misinformation.

First published in 2012, and covering nine countries, the latest Digital News Report was the biggest so far, with more than 75,000 people participating. For the first time ever, the report included participants from Africa, with South Africa bringing the total number of surveyed countries to 38. The report was launched in June 2019 in several locations including London, Oslo, Sofia, New York and Athens. It received worldwide media coverage, including in outlets such as the Sydney Morning Herald, EL PAÍS, the BBC, the Financial Times, the Toronto Star and on the Reuters news wire. It was cited in over 700 news articles on the day of publication and has featured in hundreds more since.

The Digital News Report is funded by 15 sponsors, including Google, BBC News and Ofcom. Findings from this year's report highlight some of the vulnerabilities that the news industry is facing. Survey participants said they would far prefer to spend money on online entertainment subscriptions like Netflix and Spotify than they would on news. Furthermore, trust in news has declined, with less than half saying they trust the news that they themselves choose to use. Active news avoidance is on the rise around the world, particularly in the UK, which saw a fractious debate around Brexit. The report continues to be used as an authoritative source by news media covering the challenging state of the industry.



“ An authoritative worldwide view from Britain. The Reuters Institute at Oxford produces a must-read annual report on the digital arena and news. ”

RICK EDMONDS

MEDIA BUSINESS ANALYST AT THE POYNTER INSTITUTE





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