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ANNUAL REPORT
2017-18

Foreword

For over sixty years, Cara (the Council for At-Risk Academics) was known as SPSL (the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning). Today, in many parts of the world, science and learning are thriving; but elsewhere urgent rescue and life-changing support for academics at risk are needed as much as ever.

Fortunately, Cara is still there for them. Through our Fellowship Programme many are helped to move, with their families, to places of safety where they can continue their work until it is safe for them to return. We are currently supporting some 290, with around 350 family members; often they have been through great dangers and have lost friends and even family members, but once they are safe again many achieve outstanding results, producing work of real importance. We are now also helping many Syrian academics in exile in the Middle East through our regionally-based Syria Programme – over 70 actively engaged, and another 250 on our Programme database as we move on with Phase 2. For over eighteen months we have been running a range of workshops and, as with our earlier Iraq Programme, have now received grants to fund research projects, so that exiled Syrian scholars can use their science and learning in a practical way for the benefit of Syria and the wider world. Twelve selected individuals or teams are now developing their own research ideas, ranging from a study of the role of resilience in the relative adaptability of Syrian orphans and young family members in camps to a study of genetic variation in wheat and barley in North Syria (the ancient Fertile

Crescent, and a major seed bank today). While the long-term outcome for Higher Education in Syria remains obscure, we welcome this potential for new, evidence-based learning in post-conflict Syria.

Despite all these successes, the day-to-day pressures on the Cara office remain heavy. It runs on a shoe-string, new applications for support are arriving faster than we can resolve them, and the needs of those seeking help are often challenging. The process of getting a family to safety is complex and very stressful for our mostly young staff and interns. They receive regular support from a professional counsellor to help them cope.

Knowing that there are more people waiting for help than they can handle at any one time is one more pressure – but it is one which, with your support, we can tackle. Late last year we launched our ‘10x20’ Campaign, aimed at persuading 10% of all those working in higher education and learned societies in the UK to commit to a regular donation of just £20 pa. With more funds, we could help more people to safety, by taking on the extra staff we need to deal quickly with the many new enquiries we receive each week. If you can help us to do this, please go to our website at www.cara.ngo and sign up to ‘10x20’, to ensure that Britain can continue to be a haven for scholars in danger.



Mrs Anne Lonsdale CBE, Cara Chair

Cara's Work – An Overview

Another year has gone by, but the dangers faced by university teachers and researchers around the world have changed little, if at all. Tyrants and extremists are as determined as ever to silence their enemies, and wars still rage. Academics who say and write what they think are still targeted. Their students bring dangerous new ideologies and divisions into the lecture hall, or just stay away, as normal life collapses around them. Peaceful protest alone can attract persecution, prison, or even murder. Those who want to survive are forced into self-censorship, or flight. Just getting to work can involve a whole catalogue of risks – arrest, robbery or forced conscription at checkpoints along the route, kidnap for ransom, injury or even death from crossfire or stray shells.

Beveridge and his colleagues came together eighty-five years ago in response to the rise of Nazism, but the task they gave themselves then – to rescue their colleagues from persecution, to “*prevent the waste of exceptional abilities exceptionally trained*” (Founding Statement, 1933) – is still the basis of our mission today. Our horizons now may be much wider, as we work to help academics all around the world who fear for their freedom, their safety, even their lives, but we share our founders’ conviction that science and learning should have no geographical boundaries; that the world’s academics are a single community; and that their freedom to research and to teach is vitally important for

“The excellent work that Cara does is extraordinarily important at a time when academics are under threat in such great numbers across the world. The personal cost to them and the losses to science, research and education are incalculable. As President and Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University I regard our support for Cara as a priority, allowing us to help colleagues who are not only unable to exercise their right to free enquiry, but fear for their safety and that of their family and friends. I am pleased that we are hosting two Cara Fellows from Syria on PhDs, and an academic from Syria on a research incubation visit as part of Cara’s Syria Programme. The sad truth is that the need for Cara is as great today as it has ever been, and we at Cardiff are absolutely committed to working in partnership to do whatever we can to help.”

Professor Colin Riordan
Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff University

the future of our planet.

And so, year by year, we continue our work to rescue those who are in danger, and give them the opportunity to continue their academic careers. We help those who want to go home when they can to prepare for that return, so they will be able rebuild their countries’ education systems better than before. And we help those who cannot return, because of the continuing dangers, to build new lives, bringing their fresh perspectives and international experiences to enrich the universities that host them, in the UK or elsewhere.

Cara is the only organisation of its type in Europe. Our Fellowship Programme acts



Professor Gustav Born FRCP, HonFRCS, FRS (1921 – 2018)

With great sadness, but deep respect, we paid tribute in 2018 to Professor Gustav Born, who died in April.

Gustav, son of the later Nobel Prize winner Max Born, left Germany with his family in 1933, to escape the rising antisemitism under Nazi rule. After a period in Cambridge, where Lord Rutherford, Cara's first President, had brokered a lectureship for Max, the family settled in Edinburgh, where Max became Tait Professor of Natural Philosophy, actually theoretical physics. He repaid Cara's help by working with the SPSL, as Cara was known then, to help them with the assessment of other refugee scientists. Gustav studied medicine at Edinburgh, following this with a PhD at Oxford.

Gustav joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and was one of two British pathologists to visit Hiroshima after the atomic bomb had been dropped, an experience which greatly influenced his future research. After the War, he returned to the UK and forged a distinguished academic career. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1972, and of the Royal College of Physicians in 1976.

We remember him as a good friend, who gave his time generously to support our work. Sadly, his wife, Faith, died just three months later. We send our condolences to the family on their double loss; and our thanks also to them and to their friends, who very generously made donations to Cara in Gustav's memory.

as a lifeline to academics at risk, helping them to reach a place of safety where they can continue their work. It is unique in its almost exclusive focus on helping those who are still in immediate danger, rather than already in exile, and in usually providing multi-year support as standard. Most Cara Fellows are passionate about returning home when the situation allows, but they require support in the meantime to develop their skills and build the networks they will need when that day comes. We help them to identify a host institution, agree all the funding issues, work with the host university on the visa and immigration procedures (achieving a visa success rate of over 95% in 2017) and organise their travel and arrival.

We also run regionally-based **Country Programmes**, to provide effective support to academics who are continuing to work in their country despite the threats and risks, or who have been forced into exile in the surrounding region. We ran ground-breaking regional programmes for Iraq (2006-2012) and Zimbabwe (2009-2013), and in autumn 2017 we launched the much bigger second phase of our regionally-based **Syria Programme** – the only international programme to focus on supporting and developing Syrian academics in exile in the region around Syria.

“My friends told me to flee but I did not want to. ‘You are making a big mistake,’ they said. ‘They intend to arrest everyone’”

Cara fellow from Azerbaijan

2017-18 – Another Challenging Year

In 2017/18 it was once again the conflict in Syria that forced the largest numbers of academics to seek our help, but fighting in Iraq and Yemen, and unrest in many other parts of the world, led many others to turn to us too. Academics may be at risk even in outwardly stable countries. Over 250 of the 2,200 academics who signed a petition in Turkey in 2016, protesting peacefully against their government's policy and actions in the Kurdish regions, have so far been put on trial, and over 6,000 academics were dismissed in the waves of decrees which followed the failed coup attempt in that country later that year. 15 universities were closed. In other countries, this past year like every other, the danger for some was very personal – they just belonged to the ‘wrong’ religion or ethnic group, or were of the ‘wrong’ sexual orientation in a society where being different risked getting them beaten up, or even killed.

Every applicant for help under our **Fellowship Programme** has his or her own story of suffering and danger to tell:

- a lecturer at a state-run university teaching hospital in Iraq, who was targeted by ISIS for refusing to come and work for them;
- an academic in Turkey who signed the petition criticising her government's policy, who was dismissed for ‘supporting terrorists’, had her name and address leaked

in the local press, and then found the door to her flat plastered with vile threatening messages;

- the Assistant Professor in Syria who did his military service some time ago, but was threatened with recall as a ‘reservist’, and so had to go into hiding, fearing arrest and forced conscription if he went out on the streets;
- the political activist and founder of a blog in Bangladesh whose advocacy for freedom of expression and rational criticism of religion attracted the attention of extremists with a track record of murdering other members of the Bangladeshi blogging community.

Every week we receive urgent messages from people in desperate circumstances like these. They need help; but helping so many requires far more resources than Cara alone can muster. So, over the last year, we have continued to ask our university partners to help us, by offering not only full waivers of any course or bench fees but, wherever possible, by taking on the full costs of each placement.

This is a big commitment, particularly since Cara normally grants support for two or three years as standard, sometimes even more. But UK Universities once again rose to the challenge last year, offering places, bursaries and in-kind support for Cara Fellowships worth nearly £6m, up from £0.6m in 2013 – a ten-fold increase in support in just four years. We also arranged successful placements in 2017/18, with generous host university support, in Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

As a result, we have again been able significantly to increase the number of academics we could get to safety. In 2017, we paid out over £1,350,000 on Fellowship awards (2016: £915,000), much of it funded by

restricted donations to Cara from universities for the benefit of the Fellows they are hosting, and we committed over £583,000 more for disbursement in 2018 (2016: £419,000). As of August 2018, we were providing support to over 290 academics (2017: 250; 2016: 160; 2015: 62), with some 350 dependants, from 28 countries, with over 80 further cases currently being taken forward with potential hosts.

This support from our university partners really is making a difference. It has made Cara one of the global leaders in our field. But we never forget that, alongside the numbers, each **Fellowship Programme** 'case' involves an individual person, often with a family as well, and that they are all going through a deep personal crisis. We keep in close touch with them throughout the process of securing them a placement, answering their questions and keeping them up-to-date with what can seem a frightening, complex and unpredictable process. Once everything is in place, we make all their travel arrangements, to make sure that everything goes as smoothly as possible. We also arrange for those who are coming to the UK – the great majority – to come to visit us soon after their arrival, so we can finally all meet each other face-to-face. This is often a joyful occasion, with partners and children coming along too, and we see many of our Fellows again as we travel around the country in the course of a year, so they can show us the progress they are making.

Many go on to achieve good results in tough exams, while others make important contributions as members of research teams or find worthwhile jobs. In 2017/18, as in previous years, many Cara Fellows achieved outstanding results in their study and research, and a good number have seen their work published in reputable international journals and/or have secured paid academic

employment. We list some of them on pages 6 and 7; and are proud of them all.

Nonetheless, most still hope their exile will be only temporary. Returning home is their driving ambition, and each year some manage to achieve it. Over the past year a few have even begun to return to Syria; despite all the problems there, they see a chance to pick up the threads of a normal life again. Elsewhere in the region too, the expulsion of 'ISIS' from most of the territory it so recently controlled has made it possible for people to go back, and to take the first steps to a more normal life again. The University of Mosul, whose ruins featured so prominently in our Report last year, has now re-opened – as we show on this year's cover. So we have a few reasons to be a little more cheerful, as we move into 2018/19.

“There is no word in any language sufficient to thank Cara. You saved my life and academic future when I was in Syria and you protected my life when I was diagnosed with my incurable disability in the UK. All that I can say is that I owe Cara my life.”

Cara Fellow from Syria



In June 2018 Cara Patron Jon Snow interviewed world-famous sculptor Sir Antony Gormley, a generous supporter of Cara's work, about why he thinks what we do is so important:

“I just think it's a wonderful organisation doing an incredibly important job. When countries are destroyed by inner strife or indeed by external interference, the first people that we need, who are the intellectual DNA of a society, are academics ... Cara's work is not about choosing a specific cadre of people, it's about thinking very objectively and practically about what is needed to recover the situation post-conflict. I think it's very important that academics continue to be supported to do their work, continue to be supported to return ... and where would we have been had we not offered the likes of Karl Popper and Nikolaus Pevsner a place to be, to study, and indeed to contemplate global culture? London was immensely enriched by the extraordinary intellectual influx from Mitteleuropa.”

Cara Fellows, 2017/18 – Recent Highlights

- A Syrian PhD Fellow at Aberdeen has been elected to the Royal Society of Edinburgh's prestigious 'Young Academy of Scotland';
- A Syrian Fellow has won a 'Best Student' Prize at Leicester after completing his MSc with high Distinction, and has been offered a fully-funded PhD course in Computer Sciences;
- A Syrian Fellow's sole-authored book on learning language strategies should be published in December 2018;

Cara's Executive Director with Nour and Tarek, Cara Fellows at Portsmouth, June 2018



- A Syrian Fellow's innovative research at Durham into wheat breeding, exploiting the characteristics of pest- and drought-resistant Syrian wheat varieties, is achieving important results and has opened up new research links with other universities;
- Two Syrian PhD Fellows have been awarded prestigious two-year Scholarships at Cumberland Lodge, an educational foundation in Windsor Great Park founded, like Cara, in response to the rise of the Nazi regime in Germany;
- A Syrian Fellow secured employment as a lecturer in Architectural and Urban Heritage at the University of Liverpool, following a 12-month postdoctoral placement;
- A Syrian Fellow has been offered a Senior Lectureship in Civil Engineering at Liverpool John Moores University. He was previously working at the University of Liverpool, after completing a 24-month postdoctoral placement;
- An Iraqi Fellow secured a position as a Postdoctoral Researcher in Biological Sciences at Oxford Brookes University, after completing a 24-month postdoctoral placement;

- A Syrian Fellow secured a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Plant Sciences at the University of Plymouth after completing a 24-month postdoctoral placement, during which he published eight peer-reviewed papers;
- Two Syrian Fellows secured Research Associate positions, at Newcastle and Strathclyde Universities;
- A Syrian Fellow secured a lecturing position in Modern Middle Eastern History at the University of Manchester, after completing her PhD at Lancaster University;
- A Syrian Fellow secured a permanent post as a Lecturer in the Management of Projects at the University of Manchester, following a 12-month postdoctoral placement;
- A Syrian Fellow secured a three-year contract as a Postdoctoral Scientist at the John Innes Centre, following a 24-month postdoctoral placement;
- A Syrian-Palestinian Fellow secured employment at the University of Nottingham as a Tutor, for a fixed term;
- A Syrian Fellow secured a position as a Postdoctoral Researcher in Plant Sciences at Oxford University, following a 24-month postdoctoral placement;

- A Syrian Fellow secured a Postdoctoral position in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the Humboldt University in Berlin;
- A Syrian-Palestinian Fellow secured a paid post at a multinational electric vehicle company in Germany, after completing his MSc at the Hochschule Darmstadt.

Cara Fellow Mohamad Kamel, at his 2018 graduation at Edinburgh Napier University, with Napier's Principal, Professor Andrea Nolan, and Dr Sophie Foley



Bangladeshi activists rally on 10 March 2018 against a terrorist attack the previous week on Professor Zafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University, Dhaka



Syria Programme

September 2017 marked the successful completion of Phase 1 of Cara's regional Syria Programme (essentially, a 12-month pilot phase, based in Turkey), followed immediately by the launch of Phase 2, which will run until March 2019.

Cara's Syria Programme aims to strengthen and connect Syrian academics who are in exile in the countries surrounding Syria, to ensure that they can play their vital role in the rebuilding of Syria's higher

education and research sectors when the situation allows.

Phase 1 offered a range of online and face-to-face activities ('Strands'), which are all continuing in Phase 2. Strands 1 (English for Academic Purposes – EAP) and 2 (Academic Skill Development – ASD) address language and skills deficits through the provision of weekly online one-to-one EAP sessions and ASD webinars, complemented by two-monthly 6-day workshops in Istanbul. A dedicated Portal facilitates online delivery by over 60 volunteer academics and ASD and EAP experts. Strands 3 (Research Incubation Visits) and 4 (Cara-Commissioned Research) support professional networking, training, conference and action-learning research collaboration opportunities.

A Syrian Academic's Story

My name is Ziad Alibrahim. I am a Syrian academic, with an MSc in Haematology from the University of Juba, Sudan. Following graduation, I returned to Syria in 2006 where I worked as a university instructor and lab supervisor until, in 2014, the worsening crisis forced me to escape to Turkey. I left with little hope or clear idea as to what the future held for me. I heard about Cara from friends in 2015 and immediately made contact. The Syria Programme has reconnected me to colleagues in exile, as well as to some wonderful UK and Turkish academics, rebuilding my confidence. I have been able to improve my English through one-to-one online and face-to-face English for academic purposes sessions, a part of the programme that I helped to pilot and from which I have benefited enormously.

I also participate in the Programme's

academic skills development workshops in Istanbul and worked last year as a co-researcher on its Cambridge University-led study on higher education in Syria, through which I improved my understanding of international standards, of qualitative research methodologies and methods, including interview techniques, and my data analysis, coding and academic writing skills.

In 2017, the Programme arranged for me to do a UCL English Language pre-session with full fee waiver, and I am now on an 8-week 'Research incubation visit' to Cardiff University, working with colleagues from the Systems Immunity Research Institute in their labs, attending lectures to update my discipline knowledge, and developing a longer-term research collaboration. I now have hope and a sense of what the future may hold.

Phase 2 sees the addition of a fifth strand, Syria Research Fellowships, providing both small (£3,000) and larger (£15,000) grants to support research on issues of relevance to Syria or Syrian populations in exile. This

fifth strand builds on the success of the very effective Cara Iraq Programme partnership model (2006-2012). Syrian teams will be led by experienced academics in post in universities of international repute, to ensure rigorous



Dr Catherine Camps, University of South Wales

Cara Syria Programme participants at an Academic Skills Development Workshop in Istanbul, July 2018

“I feel I am an academic again. I lost this sense for some years. I wasn't involved in any programme for academics. This is very good now. It is a big opportunity to meet people in this environment, in education and so on. It gave me really a good chance.”

Cara Syria Programme participant

quality outputs, central to which is publication in peer-reviewed journals.

327 Syrian academics are now registered on the **Syria Programme** database with over 70 actively engaged in one or more of its activities, supporting not only collaboration with colleagues from the wider international academic and scientific communities but, just as importantly, connection and collaboration between Syrians in exile and a growing number of discipline clusters.

The Programme is funded by the Open Society Foundations (\$125,000 in Phase 1 and a further \$850,000 in Phase 2), the British Council (£25,000), and a private donor (£125,000). Staff from a number of UK universities, including Edinburgh, Cardiff, Reading and Sheffield, are supporting the development and delivery of the various strands, including hosting 2- to 8-week research incubation visits. The value of in-kind

support well exceeds £250,000.

Phase 1 generated or supported a number of conference papers and publications, including two Strand 4 reports from a Cambridge University-led study on the 'Status of Higher Education in Syria pre- and post-2011', which was undertaken in collaboration with 20 Syrian co-researchers. The reports will inform two dissemination events planned for late 2018. The first, in the region, will target policymakers and planners among the international respondents to the crisis. The second, in collaboration with the British Council, will target the UK Higher Education sector and Cara's core supporters.

The Syria Programme owes a major debt to all who have given freely of their time, expertise and energy to ensure its success, a success that was endorsed by an independent evaluation of the Programme which was completed in June 2018.

“This programme is very beneficial for us, after the circumstances we have been living, after all routes were cut off around us, the roads towards research were closed in our faces. This programme is like a candle that is a light in a very dark tunnel.”

Cara Syria Programme participant

“My family and I feel like we are born again and that our academic dreams are beginning to come true. There are so many feelings that my family and I have no words to describe and explain it. Thank you from my heart.”

Cara Fellow from Syria

A UK Academic's Story

Collaborative research placement for a Syrian displaced academic at the Systems Immunity Research Institute

Two weeks after Prof Gus Born sadly passed away earlier in 2018 in his mid-90s, I received an email from Prof Phil Stephens, our Dean of International at Cardiff University, asking if we would consider hosting a displaced Syrian refugee for a short research visit, through Cara's Syria Programme. The email mentioned that a previous recipient of a Cara grant was Max Born, the Nobel Laureate and, by coincidence, Gus's father, who brought his family over to the UK when Gus was only 11 years old. I only knew Gus for about 7 years in his later life but during that time we met several times a year to talk about research, and each time he told me more and more stories about his life at that time and what a huge debt of gratitude he felt his family owed to the UK for helping them at a major time of personal and professional need. Up to then I had not known about Cara or the incredible work they do.

Knowing Gus's involvement in Cara, I felt compelled to reply and was allocated a match with Ziad Alibrahim, a Syrian Haematology specialist currently living in

Turkey. Ziad arrived to our lab three weeks ago and is currently spending eight weeks with us, visiting haematology centres in the UK to make contacts, initiating joint projects and, if all goes well, scoping out some funding and co-supervision that can help him gain a PhD placement back in Turkey when he returns. Ziad's aim is to become a university lecturer, remain closely located to his family and ultimately use his haematology skills to improve quality of healthcare in Turkey/Syria in particular relating to blood transfusion, and diagnostics.

Ziad has so far visited with the Coagulation lab at University Hospital Wales, Welsh Blood Service and Cardiff Metropolitan University, and shortly will go to Birmingham to visit haematology researchers there. I want to thank all colleagues in those centres, and also those in our Division of Infection and Immunity, for their support with hosting Ziad in Cardiff. We are delighted and honoured to be able to support this visit, and by extension Cara in the fantastic work they do.

Dr Valerie O'Donnell
School of Medicine, Cardiff University

International Partnerships

Cara is lucky to have a wide range of like-minded international partners, including in particular our two US counterparts, the Scholars at Risk Network (SAR) and the Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF). We value our cooperation with them and were glad to be able to take part in SAR's biennial Global Congress in Berlin in 2018.

In 2017 we were again re-elected as Vice-Chair of the New York-based Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), a grouping of NGOs and UN agencies, including SAR and SRF, formed in 2010 to carry out research, monitoring and advocacy to highlight the problem of targeted attacks on education at all levels in times of crisis or armed conflict. The Coalition's biggest single achievement so far has been the launch in 2013 of what became known as the 'Draft Lucens Guidelines' for protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict. These ideas were subsequently developed under the leadership of Norway and Argentina into the Safe Schools Declaration. Work to persuade more countries to adopt the Declaration and accompanying Guidelines continued throughout 2017/18. By September 2018, 81 states – well over one-third of the total UN membership and including a clear majority of NATO and EU states – had adopted both documents. We were particularly pleased to see the UK and Germany sign up in 2018. This process is already making, and will continue to make, a real difference to those

caught up in conflict. Throughout 2017/18 we also worked with GCPEA partners in the preparation of Education under Attack 2018, the latest in a series of four-yearly reviews of attacks on education around the world, at all levels, which was released in May.

The Coalition's work and role is being increasingly recognised. In May 2018, for example, the European Commission wrote in a formal communication to the European Parliament and European Council on 'Education In Emergencies and Protracted Crises' that it "recognizes and supports the work of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack and will support initiatives to promote and roll out the Safe Schools Declaration", and it used Education Under Attack 2018 as a reference source.

In 2017/18 we also continued to work with the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, launched by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation with support from the German Foreign Ministry and other German foundations, which helps at-risk academics to find places at German universities. We supported 22 successful applications in the first four rounds; four Cara Fellows are now being supported at German universities through this Initiative. In November 2017 our Executive Director attended a meeting in Paris of the Programme d'aide à l'Accueil en Urgence des Scientifiques en Exil (PAUSE), which was established in January 2017 to award stimulus funding to higher education establishments and public research organisations which plan to host scientists at risk. Three Cara Fellows are now at French universities, and we are continuing our engagement with PAUSE in 2018. In April 2018 our Executive Director also spoke at a conference in Munich organised by the Global Young Academy, on the theme of Perspectives on Individual

Responsibility in the Context of Refugee and Migrant Integration.

On 29 November 2017 the Chief Executive of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and Cara's Executive Director signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between our two organisations, in the presence of our two Chairs, Professor Amit Chakma and Mrs Anne Lonsdale. The MoU provides a non-binding framework for future collaboration between the ACU and Cara to support academics who have been forced to seek temporary refuge outside their own country. The ACU is taking steps to tell its members about our work and encourage ACU member institutions to get in touch with us, to see how they can best work with us, and in parallel we are approaching a number of ACU universities ourselves. We look forward to developing this collaboration further in 2018/19.

“The threats began firstly in booby-trapping my car, secondly trying to kidnap my children and requesting ransom in exchange for that, and finally trying to assassinate me. I became besieged in my house, my work and even in expressing my thoughts and opinions.”

Cara Fellow from Syria

UK Partnerships

We continued our close collaboration with the British Council throughout 2017/18. In particular, we are grateful to the Council for once again providing fee waivers for Cara Fellows from Syria who take their International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exams in the region, and for their support of our Syria Programme.

In October 2017 we agreed a new partnership with the Northern Consortium, a charity established in 1987 by leading universities in Northern England, and its trading arm, NCUK, who now partner with 16 universities in the UK and many more overseas to help meet the charity's objective of increasing access to higher education for international students. A 3-year grant from the Northern Consortium (NC) will make it possible for academics to escape from danger in their own countries and to study for PhDs at NC member universities. We also continued our partnership with the executive search company Minerva, who are supporting two Cara Fellows with a multi-year grant.

In early 2018 we nominated our second 'Cumberland Lodge Scholar'. Cumberland Lodge, the educational foundation in Windsor Great Park, launched a scholarship scheme in 2017 to accept a Cara PhD student each year, for two years. This collaboration was inspired by our shared history as organisations founded in response to the rise of Nazism in 1930s Germany. Every year, a Cara PhD Fellow is selected to join the existing Cumberland Lodge Scholarship scheme for doctoral students, to benefit from inter-cultural

exchange and to gain transferrable skills in critical thinking, communications, networking and public engagement. Similarly, in Spring 2018 a second Cara Fellow was honoured by being admitted to the Young Academy of Scotland, with the support of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

In June 2018 we agreed with the Trustees of the Sir Hans Krebs Trust to continue our cooperation for a third year. The late Sir Hans Krebs was a Nobel Prize winner who was supported by Cara in the 1930s when he was forced to leave Nazi Germany, and the Trust's awards are funded from the sale, by his family, of his Nobel Prize medal. The Sir Hans Krebs Trust/Cara Fellowships are helping to ensure that future generations of biomedical scientists who are prevented from carrying out research

in their own country because of persecution or oppression have the opportunity to continue their important work. Cara looks forward to continuing this work in 2018/19.

Throughout 2017/2018 we continued our cooperation with the Society for Applied Microbiology (SfAM), who generously provide support for a Cara Fellow in their special field and this year also provided an International Capacity-Building bursary to support a Cara Syria Programme Fellow (and SfAM member) on a research incubation visit to the University of Liverpool.

We are very grateful also to Goodenough College and to International Student House, who provide generous scholarships to cover accommodation costs for Cara Fellows in London.

CARA IN SCOTLAND

The inaugural 'Cara Scotland Conference', hosted by the University of Edinburgh, was held on 18 April 2018. Representatives from seven Scottish universities, Universities Scotland and the Royal Society of Edinburgh took part, to learn more about our work, to share current best practice and to identify areas for further partnership.

After a warm welcome from Edinburgh's new Principal, Professor Peter Mathieson, and the General Secretary of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Alison Elliot, our Executive Director spoke about Cara's current priorities. Representatives from Dundee, Abertay and Edinburgh universities then each described their own institution's engagement with Cara.

After lunch Jon Turner and Michael Jenkins from the University of Edinburgh spoke about their work in the framework of Cara's regional Syria Programme, which was followed by two very moving presentations from current Cara Fellows based in Aberdeen and Edinburgh,

which brought home the human impact of forced exile and showed how, with the right support, individuals can overcome all obstacles and go on to achieve great things.

As a finale to the event, Edinburgh's Deputy Vice Principal International, Alan MacKay, announced that Edinburgh would recruit and host a 'Cara Scotland Manager', to promote increased engagement with our work and an even more active partnership between Cara and Scottish higher education, learned societies and research institutes. Interviews for the post were held in July 2018, and the successful candidate has been appointed. We very much look forward to working with her.

We would like to thank the University of Edinburgh for hosting this first 'Cara Scotland Conference' and for its strong support of our work, and all the other Scottish universities who work with us, in so many ways.

Dr Jon Turner, Director, Institute for Academic Development, University of Edinburgh, speaking at the Cara Scotland Conference, April 2018

“What you have done for my life is by far more important than what I can do for you. Nothing at all would really pay you back! What I can do is not significant at all toward what you have done for me already, but I hope I will always be there for Cara.”

Cara Fellow from Syria



UK Network Universities, 2018

The 117 UK institutions listed below have signed up to work with us, offering fee waivers and often accommodation and financial support for Cara Fellows and their families. Most also contribute a voluntary annual subscription too, to help cover our running costs. We thank them all. Equally, we thank those many members of their staffs, who give so generously of their time, pro bono, to help our Fellows and to support our Syria Programme. Our work would be impossible without their enthusiasm and commitment.

Aberdeen | Abertay | Aston | Bath | Bath Spa | Bedfordshire | Birkbeck | Birmingham | Bournemouth | Bradford | Brighton | Bristol | Brunel | Buckingham | Cambridge | Canterbury Christ Church | Cardiff | Cardiff Metropolitan | Central Lancashire | Chester | Chichester | City University London | City & Guilds of London Art School | Courtauld Institute | Coventry | Cumbria | De Montfort | Dundee | Durham | Edinburgh | Edinburgh Napier | Essex | Exeter | Glasgow | Glasgow Caledonian | Glasgow School of Art | Glyndŵr | Goldsmiths College | Goodenough College | Greenwich | Heriot Watt | Hertfordshire | Heythrop College | Huddersfield | Hull | Imperial College | UCL Institute of Education | Kent | Keele | King's College London | Kingston | Lancaster | Leeds | Leeds Beckett | Leeds Trinity | Leicester | Lincoln | Liverpool | Liverpool Hope | Liverpool John Moores | Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine | London | London Business School | London Metropolitan | London School of Economics | London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine | London South Bank | Loughborough | Manchester | Manchester Metropolitan | Middlesex | Newcastle | Newman University Birmingham | Northampton | Nottingham | Nottingham Trent | Open University | Oxford | Oxford Brookes | Plymouth | Portsmouth | Queen Mary | Queen Margaret | Queen's Belfast | Ravensbourne | Reading | Regent's | Roehampton | Royal Central School of Speech & Drama | Royal Holloway | SOAS | Salford | Sheffield | Sheffield Hallam | Southampton | Southampton Solent | South Wales | Staffordshire | Stirling | Strathclyde | St Andrews | Sunderland | Surrey | Sussex | University of the Arts London | University College London | University of East London | Ulster | Warwick | Westminster | West of England | West of Scotland | Winchester | Wolverhampton | Worcester | York | York St John |

Development

On Wednesday 29 November 2017, Professor Timothy Garton Ash delivered the fifth annual Cara 'Science and Civilisation' lecture to Cara's largest ever audience at such an event, in the Dining Room of the Royal Society. His talk, on the theme of 'Free Speech under Attack: the Case of Universities' was subsequently made available through the Cara website.

The 2018 Lecture will be delivered at the Royal Society by Professor Margaret MacMillan on Monday 5 November. Her theme will be, "War and Society: the Impact of the First World War". [Please contact Cara for further details if you wish to attend this event.](#)

We were honoured to be chosen by Times Higher Education (THE) as their Charity Partner for their 2017 Awards Ceremony, on 30 November. THE's editor, John Gill, told the London Evening Standard that, "At a time when academics in many countries face persecution and are being driven from their homes, Cara's work is of the utmost importance, and in many cases life-saving. Times Higher Education is pleased to support the charity's work and to help raise the profile of the life-line it is throwing to international colleagues who are at imminent risk."

Cara and Cara Fellows have continued their active engagement with the UK and international media, with a range of articles and interviews in the press and broadcast media. In particular Tim Judah's piece in the *Financial Times Magazine* of 29 June 2018, for which he interviewed five Fellows, attracted wide comment. Cara's new e-newsletter, launched in 2017, has also increased our outreach, and we have achieved significant growth in our social media presence.

Fundraising

On 30 November, at the annual Times Higher Education awards, Cara's President, Professor Sir Malcolm Grant, supported by Cara Patron Jon Snow in a recorded video message, launched Cara's new fundraising drive, the '10 x 20' campaign, aimed at persuading 10% of those working in UK universities and learned societies to commit to give £5 every quarter, or £20 per year, to support Cara's work. This is a relatively small sum for individuals but, if enough people join in, would transform Cara's ability to provide life-changing help to academics at risk around the world.

The initial response has been very positive. People from over 40 universities and 10 other organisations have already signed up to make regular donations. It's starting to make a real difference. But there is still a long way to go. If you support what we do, please help by giving us the funds to do it. The 'Appeal' on page 21 gives full details.

We are immensely grateful also to the 80 UK universities (2016: 71), who paid £306,500 in 2017 in voluntary annual subscriptions (2016: £272,500). These subscriptions cover about two-thirds of Cara's annual running costs. We could not continue without this support.

"Cara is a great and wonderful thing. I am lucky to get support from this very nice organisation. The staff are really angels. I hope I will be able to pay them back one day."

Cara Fellow from Iraq

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IN 2017

In 2017 many universities continued to provide the living-cost funding for the Cara Fellows they were hosting by means of restricted donations to Cara, rather than paying the Fellows direct. This contributed to a significant further increase in Cara's income and expenditure in 2017, which seems likely to continue in coming years.

As a result, Cara's final income in 2017 totalled £2,230,635 (2016: £1,518,427). Expenditure and commitments on awards and programme and project work for the year amounted to £2,053,886 (2016: £1,386,273), and Governance Costs were £15,807 (2016: £28,605). The total net movement of funds was a surplus of £181,246 (2016: a surplus of £118,653). On a cash basis, there was a surplus of £159,245 (2016: £176,258). Further information is given in the accounts starting at page 22.

During 2017, the total value of assets held by Cara's investment advisers, Investec, increased from £277,322 to £302,334.

Cara is grateful to its many benefactors. In the course of 2017/18 Cara staff continued to submit funding applications to a wide range of existing and potential supporters. Some prefer to remain anonymous, but of those who are happy to be acknowledged in public, we thank the following:

- David and Elaine Potter Foundation
- Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust
- Eddie Dinshaw Foundation
- French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Harbour Foundation
- Microsoft
- Minerva
- Murdoch Trust
- Neuberger Family
- Northern Consortium
- Open Society Foundations
- Redevco Foundation
- Sir Hans Krebs Trust
- Sir Joseph Hotung Charitable Settlement
- Society for Applied Microbiology
- Whitaker Charitable Trust
- Worshipful Company of World Traders

We would like to acknowledge also the valuable support given to our Syria Programme by Columbia Global Centers in Istanbul, by Elsevier, and by the Society for Research into Higher Education.

“My family and I feel like we are born again and that our academic dreams are beginning to come true. There are so many feelings that my family and I have no words to describe and explain it. Thank you from my heart.”

Cara Fellow from Syria



Around the world, the liberty of many academics and even their lives are in danger. Their hard-earned skills risk being lost.

Since 1933, Cara has helped thousands of them to escape. We are working to rescue many more now.

But we need your help to do it.

cara | '10 x 20'

Please go to www.cara.ngo/10-x-20-appeal, and help us to get your colleagues to safety.

Some 400,000 people work in Higher Education in the UK, and more in the UK's learned societies. If 10% of them were able to give just £20 to Cara every year – £5 per quarter – our finances would be transformed.

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31st December 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Income		
Donations and legacies	2,223,074	1,510,753
Investments	7,561	7,674
Realised gains / (losses) on investments	20,304	16,983
Total income	2,250,939	1,535,410
Expenditure		
Raising funds	3,051	1,879
Charitable activities:		
Grants payable	1,556,530	977,109
Programme and project work	494,305	409,164
Governance	15,807	28,605
Total expenditure	2,069,693	1,416,757
Net income (expenditure) for the year	181,246	118,653

All of the operations undertaken by the company during the current and preceding years are continuing operations.

The retained net gain for the year based on historical cost is £163,962 (2016 – net gain £102,162).

Auditors' Opinion: We confirm that the information given in the summary income and expenditure account and the balance sheet shown on pages 22 to 23 is consistent with the annual accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2017 which have been audited by ourselves.

David Warren BA FCA Senior statutory auditor, 6 June 2018

For and on behalf of **Cocke, Vellacott & Hill** Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants, Unit 3 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31st December 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	8,781	2,365
Investments	302,334	277,322
Total fixed assets	311,115	279,687
Current assets		
Debtors	98,559	30,407
Cash at bank and in hand	765,319	606,074
Total current assets	863,878	636,481
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(628,370)	(550,791)
Net current assets (liabilities)	235,508	(85,690)
Total assets less current liabilities	546,623	365,377
The funds of the charity:		
Restricted Income Funds	291,584	69,433
Unrestricted Funds - general	247,663	271,284
Unrestricted Funds - revaluation reserve	7,376	24,660
Total charity funds	546,623	365,377

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 6 June 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

Anne Lonsdale (Trustees)

David Ure (Trustees)

Company Registration No: 00641687 | Charity Registration No: 207471

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

President

Professor Sir Malcolm Grant CBE

Patrons

Mr Greg Dyke

Rabbi Baroness Neuberger DBE

The Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve CH CBE FBA

Professor Lord Patel of Bradford OBE

Mr Jon Snow

Dr Rowan Williams (The Rt Revd and Rt Hon The Lord Williams of Oystermouth PC)

Trustees in 2017-18

Chair: Mrs Anne Lonsdale CBE, *Former President, New Hall, Cambridge, and Cambridge University Pro- and Vice-Chancellor*

Hon Secretary: Professor Michael Worton CBE, *Former Vice-Provost (International), UCL*

Hon Treasurer: Mr David Ure, *Company Director, formerly Chair of the Reuters Foundation*

Ms Nicola Dandridge CBE, *Chief Executive, Office for Students*

Professor Penelope Gardner-Chloros, *Professor of Sociolinguistics & Language Contact, Birkbeck, University of London*

Mr Mark Hammond, *Former Chief Executive, Equality and Human Rights Commission*

Professor Sir Deian Hopkin, *former President of the National Library of Wales; former University Vice-Chancellor*

Ms Lilia Jolibois, *Non-executive Director and Member of the Audit Committee of Future Group S.A., France, and Board Director of the INSEAD Foundation*

Professor Alan McCarthy, *Professor of Microbiology, University of Liverpool*

Professor John Naughton, *Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), University of Cambridge*

Dr Joanna Newman MBE, *Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities*

Ms Tabitha Nice, *Litigator in private practice, later non-practicing Chief Adjuster, Specialty, for a Lloyd's managing agent.*

Mr Nigel Petrie, *Chairman of AD Group, a UK technology business*

Mr Stephan Roman CMG, *Former Director for South Asia, the British Council*

The Revd Dr Nicholas Sagovsky, *Honorary Professorial Fellow at Roehampton University, Visiting Professor at Liverpool Hope University*

Professor Paul Weindling, *Research Professor, History of Medicine, Oxford Brookes University*

Staff

Executive Director: Stephen Wordsworth CMG LVO

Deputy Director, Fellowship Programme Manager (until March 2018): **Ryan Mundy**

Deputy Director, Fellowship Programme Manager (from March 2018): **Zeid Al Bayaty**

Senior Fellowship Programme Officer: **Sana Ibrahim**

Fellowship Programme Officer: **Andrew Mahon**

Fellowship Programme Officer: **Laura Puiggali**

Fellowship Programme Officer: **Riman Salim**

Fellowship Programme Officer: **Lucia Simms**

Fellowship Programme Assistant: **Olivia Lawrence**

Head of Development: **Martin Thornton**

Middle East Adviser: **Kate Robertson**

Volunteers and Interns

Cara could not function without the support of the many volunteers and interns who have so generously given their time to work with Cara over the last year:

Harbinda Hanspal | Jibreel Mohamed | Micol Polacco | Fayeza Kassam | Lucia Simms |

Tessa Polovina | Manatalla Mohamed | Huma Ansari | Anna Phillips | Narmin Ali |

Durr-e-Sameen Mirza | Ziad Al-Qattan | Hannah Gray | Olivia Lawrence | Oscar Saunders |

Lilla Schaffer | Sarah Petter | Nurhannani F Rahman

Data Protection

In view of the sensitivity of the personal information that Cara processes, Cara is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and complies fully with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. Cara's registration may be viewed at: <https://ico.org.uk/ESDWebPages/DoSearch?reg=522738>

**“Special thanks for all your efforts,
I am so proud to be one of your fellows and I am
entirely happy that I am doing my Ph.D.”**

Cara Fellow from Syria

Iraqi students gather for a celebration marking the University of Mosul's 51st anniversary on 1 April 2018, after the city was retaken from the control of 'ISIS'.

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www.cara.ngo

Charity registered in England and Wales No 207471
Company registered in England and Wales No 641687

Middle East Office (since 2008): 101 Uhod Street, Amman, Jordan.

AL-HAD MUWAFIQ/AFP/Getty Images