



**cara**

ANNUAL REPORT | 2018-19

## FOREWORD

Throughout its 86-year-old history, Cara's focus has been on helping academics at risk of suffering persecution, oppression or discrimination by bringing them to sanctuary in the UK where they can pursue their research and scholarly activities in safety.

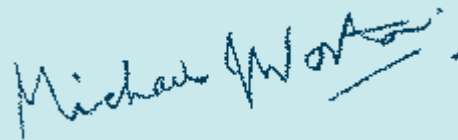
In the decades since 1933, when the Nazis' persecution of scientists prompted the creation of the Academic Assistance Council (as Cara was first known), both the manifestations and the locations of oppression have changed across the world, and the functions and responsibilities of universities have grown significantly to include widening participation, skills development, partnerships with business and industry, and public engagement. However, one issue remains Cara's constant guiding light: the importance of academic freedom.

The modern university has its origins in the medieval University of Bologna, which in 1155 established a charter (the *Constitutio habita*), which guaranteed the rights of a travelling scholar to unhindered passage in the interests of education and to immunity from the right of reprisal. Signed by the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa and endorsed later by Pope Alexander III, this charter enshrined in law both international mobility and academic freedom as rights for scholars. Nine centuries on, these need just as urgently to be upheld, and we must do all we can to ensure that academic freedom is fundamental to the identity of every university.

Our exiled Fellows remind us powerfully that academic freedom is not a slogan to cite when one is told to do something new or different, but a vital matter of physical, mental and emotional freedom and in some cases, a matter of life or death.

Cara recognises that we need also to support academics in countries where their work is at risk or compromised. We thus now run regionally-based programmes which focus on capacity building and on all-round professional development for academics who have remained in their countries or are in exile nearby: Iraq Programme (2006-2012), Zimbabwe Programme (2009-2013); Syria Programme (2016-date).

The demands for our help, alas, never diminish and we urgently want to rescue more people from more countries. To this end, we have launched our '10 x 20' Campaign which seeks to persuade 10% of those working in UK higher education to commit to give £20 per annum to Cara. Please join our Campaign at <https://www.cara.ngo/10-x-20-appeal/> and help us to help more academics to rebuild their lives and ultimately their home countries.



Professor Michael Worton, CBE, Cara Chair

*“Cara is one of the most wonderful things to happen in my life, and I cannot thank them enough.”*

Cara Fellow from Iraq

## CARA'S WORK – AN OVERVIEW

86 years after William Beveridge and his colleagues founded Cara, to rescue academics in Germany from the threat of Nazism, nationalism and intolerance are once again on the rise and internationalism and respect for human rights are under pressure. Frightened and confused, more and more people seek refuge in old prejudices, or turn to 'strong leaders' who tolerate no opposition. Those who speak out in protest or call for moderation are accused of disloyalty and betrayal, of supporting terrorists or even of blasphemy, and face arrest or violent attack. Meanwhile, old conflicts rage on and new ones break out. Amidst the carnage and the rubble, the innocent die by the thousand and millions are driven from their homes.

Through the shouting, the accusations, the dust and the chaos, many people hardly notice that many universities are also being destroyed, and free academic enquiry suppressed. Facing death, injury, persecution or prison, more and more academics are being forced to flee. The societies they abandon are left intellectually and morally impoverished, even where they are not also physically damaged. If those academics can never return home to work, that impoverishment will become permanent. Truth will die, and lies flourish.

Since 1933, Cara's mission has been to help people like this, to fulfil the task set out by our founders – 'the relief of suffering and the defence of learning and science'. Over those years, thousands have been saved from conflict or arrest, as well as from persecution just for being who they are – because of their religion, their ethnicity, their sexual orientation or gender identity. Some have achieved high public distinction; others have worked more quietly to develop their skills and to be ready to help to train the next generation. When conditions allowed, many have gone home again, taking back

“The UK Higher Education sector is facing uncertain times both politically and economically with many challenges to the role and contribution that universities make to society. In this atmosphere it seems clear to me that universities have an obligation to support our own communities, wider society and also one another. Cara is an organisation that puts these words into action through the work that it does to support at-risk academics. I am proud that the University of Edinburgh was a founding member of Cara and we continue to support their work now. Today we have two at-risk academics on 2-year postdoctoral placements and a third is arriving soon. Colleagues across the university are also involved with the Syria Programme which delivers workshops to displaced Syrian academics in Turkey; and we are delighted to be hosting and supporting Cara's first 'Scotland Manager', here at Edinburgh Global.

As we face this uncertain future together, we have an obligation to our forebears and to our successors to act responsibly and it is important that we do our part to make the world a better place. Partnering Cara in their global mission is therefore something that we are fully committed and proud to do.”

**Professor Peter Mathieson**  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Edinburgh

with them not only the extra knowledge and skills they have acquired, but also the precious sense of being part of a global community of learning that transcends national boundaries, and serves a wider, international, purpose.

Today, under the pressure of events in the Middle East in particular, Cara is busier than at any time since the 1930s. Our Fellowship Programme – the direct descendant of the rescue mission that Cara launched back in 1933 – is working with some 300 Cara Fellows, accompanied by some 400 family members. Our Syria Programme – the third regionally-based programme we have launched in the last fifteen years – is working with another 130 or more Syrians in exile in the countries around Syria, principally in Turkey, with hundreds more on its database.

All these hundreds are now safe, studying, researching and teaching. For now, they

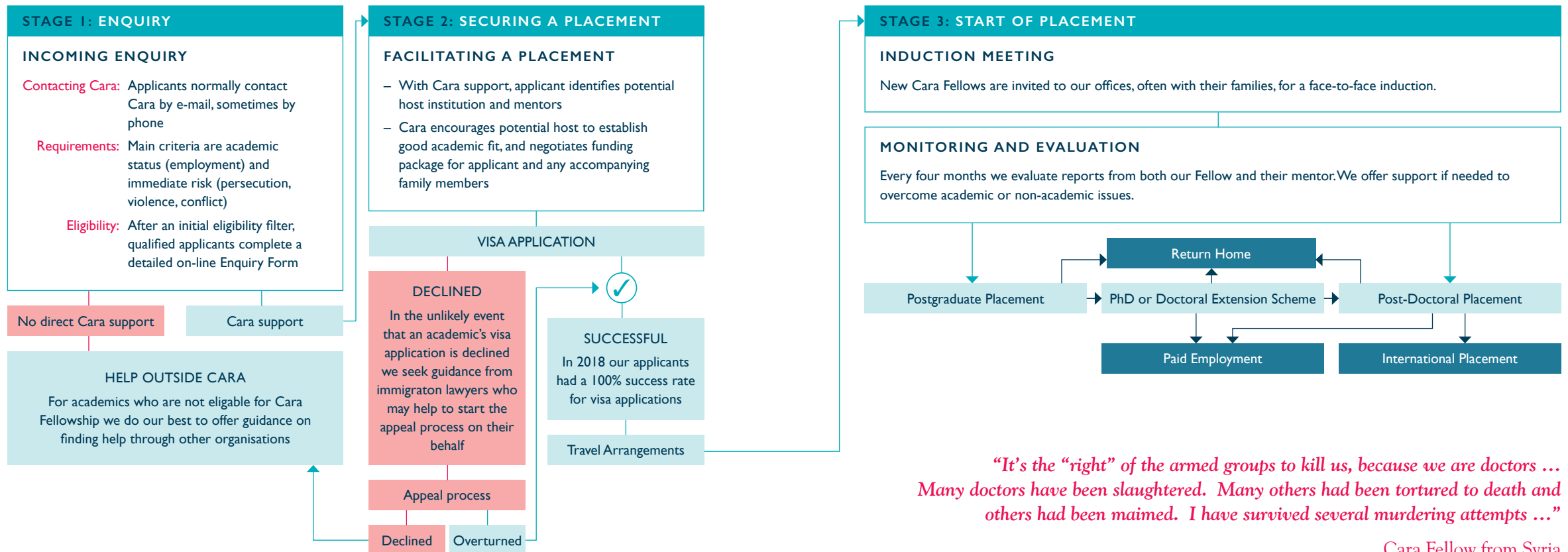
share their skills with us. One day, we hope, many will be able to follow their predecessors and return home, to help re-build the better, safer societies they deserve. Until then, however, they will need our help. Our work in 2018-19 would have been impossible without the strong support we received throughout the year from our many university partners, donor organisations and individual contributors. We are grateful to them all. As we move into 2019-20, we hope that this support will continue, and that others will join us too, so more can be saved and helped to continue their vital work.

## CARA'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The work of our Fellowship Programme over the last twelve months has been dominated by the continuing effect of the conflict in Syria, where many academics still urgently need to escape from danger, but there are many other flashpoints too. In Iraq, the security situation has improved a little, but there are still widespread sectarian and ethnic tensions which make it impossible for many Iraqi scholars to continue their careers. In Yemen, continued fighting has devastated the country and forced thousands to flee. In Turkey, the State of Emergency which followed the failed 2016 coup attempt was formally lifted in July 2018, but by then over 100,000 state employees (including around

8,000 academics) are reported to have been dismissed by decree and more than 50,000 imprisoned; and in the course of 2018-19 several hundred academics were put on trial for signing a 2016 petition criticising their government's policy in Turkey's Kurdish-majority regions. At the very end of July 2019 Turkey's Constitutional Court ruled that this was a violation of their right to freedom of speech, which raises hopes that those who have already been convicted will have their sentences quashed and those still in the trial process will be left in peace. Overall, we have over 20 'source countries', where violence and persecution have left many with no choice but flight.

### THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME: HOW IT WORKS



*"It's the "right" of the armed groups to kill us, because we are doctors ... Many doctors have been slaughtered. Many others had been tortured to death and others had been maimed. I have survived several murdering attempts ..."*

Cara Fellow from Syria

Facing continuing historically very high levels of applications in 2018, Cara once again sought full waivers of any course or bench fees and, wherever possible, also asked universities to provide additional funding, including for accommodation and living costs. In response, most UK universities continued to show their strong support for Cara's work by offering places, cash and in-kind support for Fellowships.

As of July 2019, we were working with some 370 people in all:

- 147 Fellows now at universities;

- 76 Fellows being actively supported to find their initial placements;
  - 19 eligible Fellows whose applications are temporarily on hold, for various reasons;
  - 85 applicants at the initial enquiry stage;
  - an 'alumnus group' of over 47 Fellows, many now in academic jobs but still in regular contact with us;
  - and others receiving small grants and advice.
- Fellowships in 2018 also included a growing number of Cara Fellows in France, Germany, Canada, Australia, Malaysia and Hong Kong, in many cases with generous support

from the host university. The Fellows were accompanied by some 400 partners and children, for whom a wide variety of individual arrangements also had to be made. Cara paid out over £1,300,000 on Fellowship awards in 2018 and committed over £660,000 more for disbursement in 2019.

Since August 2017 over 60 Fellows have completed their placements. Of those who are still in touch with Cara, and have not yet been able to return home, 21 have secured paid employment at universities or research institutes; 19 have gone on to further placements; and others are actively seeking

employment or a further placement.

Roughly one-third of Cara Fellows are female; Cara continues to promote the cause of female academics, many of whom share all the risks that their male colleagues do but also face additional discrimination in their predominantly patriarchal societies.

*“Again thank Cara for giving me hope and making the life feel beautiful.”*

Cara Fellow from Iraq

#### Hosting a Cara Fellow in the Department of Chemistry, Loughborough University

In early 2018 the Dean of Science at Loughborough contacted me to ask if I would be willing to host a 2-year Cara Fellow and help aid in his development. This was the first that I had heard of Cara's work. I did some research online and was very impressed with their support for academics at risk. I accepted the Dean's invitation, and a few weeks later I held a videoconference meeting with Anas where we discussed possible projects and got to know a little about each other and our respective families. We exchanged emails regarding the planned work and a few months later Anas and his family were issued with their visas and arrived in Loughborough in late May 2018. After a couple of weeks settling into their new surroundings, Anas began to work in my laboratory and his eldest son started primary school.

At first, Anas shadowed one of my PhD students, but it became very clear early on that he was a very capable synthetic chemist and rapidly began to establish himself as a dependable, hard-working, and knowledgeable member of the group. He took on responsibility helping to supervise MSc and

MChem students and has developed good relationships with both the PhD cohort and the academic staff. We are currently in the process of writing up for publication some of his work on the utilisation of carbon dioxide, and he has been able to present his research and represent the University at several national and international conferences in the UK and in Europe. In addition he has been accepted as a Member of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Anas's aim is to maintain an academic career, and through his involvement at Loughborough I have been able to mentor him in the many facets of this role. It has been an enjoyable experience (especially when he brings in some delicious Syrian treats such as maamoul!) and we often spend time aside from discussing chemistry, analysing language and family life. I am extremely grateful that Cara and Loughborough University were able to support Anas and his family. He has had a significant impact on our ability to carry out research within my group, and he will be sadly missed when his fellowship comes to an end in 2020.

Dr Benjamin R Buckley

#### Typical recent appeals for help include:

- an Assistant University Lecturer in Iraq who witnessed the sectarian murder of family members by an extremist militia on the streets of Baghdad, and was later terrorised by the same militia who wanted to suppress his academic activities;
- an Assistant University Professor in Yemen who was accused of treason and threatened with imprisonment after the partial destruction of his Faculty by airstrikes because he refused rebel demands that he continue teaching his students in dangerous conditions, and was forced into hiding, unable to support his family;
- a Turkish academic who had come to the UK as a Cara Fellow after being forced to take early retirement from her job in retaliation for signing a petition in early 2016 which criticised government policy in Turkey's Kurdish regions, who was suddenly told to return to Turkey to stand trial on a charge of 'propagandizing for a terrorist organisation';
- a Syrian academic who was forced to leave his wife and child behind in Syria and fled into exile in Sudan because he was wanted for military service, but found he was unable to continue his academic work there either, because of civil unrest;
- a Palestinian academic who had been unable to continue his scientific work due to the near-total blockade of Gaza, and whose daily life was badly affected by the political instability, violence and dire humanitarian situation in the Occupied Territories.

In June 2019 we released a new video about our Fellowship Programme, which is available at <http://bit.ly/CFPVid>.

## CARA FELLOWS – RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- A Palestinian Fellow secured a full-time position as a Lecturer at Queen’s University Belfast after completing a PhD at Henley Business School, University of Reading.
- A Syrian Fellow completed a PhD at the University of Huddersfield and is now working as a Knowledge Transfer Partnership Associate at the University, in partnership with a leading multinational animal nutrition technology company.
- A Libyan Fellow secured a Permanent Lectureship in Dentistry at the University of Manchester, following a 24-month postdoctoral placement.
- A Syrian Fellow at the University of Bradford secured employment as a Postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Pharmaceutical Engineering and Science, with £35,000 funding from the Innovation-to-Commercialisation University Research Programme.
- A Syrian Fellow at the University of Portsmouth started a permanent job in July as a Lecturer in Accounting and Financial Management at the same University.
- An Iraqi Fellow has secured a permanent position at Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan, which

they will take up following completion of their 24-month postdoctoral placement in September.

- A Syrian Fellow secured a position at the University of Cambridge as a Research Associate in Micro- and Nano-Fibres and Devices.
- A Syrian Fellow started a position as a Research Assistant in the Department of Biosciences at Durham University, after completing a 24-month postdoctoral placement.
- A Syrian Fellow at the Chinese University of Hong Kong secured a full-time position as an Assistant Professor at Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education in Kazakhstan.
- An Iraqi Fellow successfully completed a PhD in Civil Engineering at Waterloo University in Canada, and secured a position as a Pavement Engineer at a leading consulting and engineering services firm.
- An Iraqi Kurd at the University of Winchester has agreed a contract for a monograph with Palgrave Macmillan, to be published in 2020.
- A Syrian Fellow successfully completed a Masters at McGill University in Canada, and has secured a fully-funded PhD place at the same University.
- A Lebanese PhD Fellow at Bath Spa University has been accepted to make a presentation at a Conference in Osaka, Japan.
- A Syrian Fellow at Christ Church, University of Oxford, presented at the Arab Council for Social Sciences conference in Beirut on “Power, Borders and Ecologies in Arab Societies: Practices and Imaginaries”.



Hawraa Jawad Kadhim (Iraq) at her PhD graduation at the University of Waterloo, Canada

### A Fellow’s Journey to the UK

I got my Master’s degree in Pharmacy from the University of Aleppo (Syria) and started teaching there. I planned to continue my academic career as a researcher and enrolled in a PhD programme in 2014.

The conflict in Syria reached Aleppo, one of the most beautiful and oldest inhabited cities in the world, which sadly had become the most dangerous city in the world at that time. The violence, kidnapping, murders and risk increased incredibly. Many people have been forcibly displaced, and dozens have been killed and injured while trying to escape.

I went through remarkable challenges in my life during that period. Aside from adverse family and personal challenges, experiencing war in my home country was the greatest challenge. The war forced me to leave my house after a few months of my marriage because of the bombs. Therefore, I had to leave my job and flee to Turkey with my husband as our lives were at risk.

I desperately tried to contact different institutions around the world hoping to continue my postgraduate studies, but it was

difficult to find any opportunity. Fortunately, I had heard of Cara and its great work in helping academics in my situation. I communicated with the Cara team who responded quickly and gave me the hope again to continue living my life and pursuing dreams. After a few months I was offered a place at a UK university to conduct a PhD programme. Not only that, Cara continued to support me through all the visa, travel and accommodation arrangements to ensure I arrived safely to the UK. In facing these difficulties and by the help of Cara, I learned a great deal of patience and I became mindful of my strength and willpower to continue forward.

Now, I have completed my PhD and developed my research skills. This would have never been possible without the help of Cara. I will always be grateful to Cara for its support which enabled me to achieve my dreams and rescued me and my family. If you can give any amount of money, please support Cara to help many people like me and save their lives.

### Cara Fellow from Syria



A portrait, with the sitter, of Aberdeen PhD student Mohamed Zaher Al Bakour by the Glasgow-based artist I D Campbell, in an exhibition organised by the Royal Society of Edinburgh to raise the profile of schemes which provide support to people at risk

- A Syrian PhD Fellow at the University of Aberdeen won the School's Physiology 2019 competition and has been invited to the Physiological Society conference dinner for winners.
- A Syrian Fellow at the University of Leicester was selected to represent the University as part of a visiting exchange at Nara Women's University in Japan.
- An Iraqi postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Edinburgh published an article in the Journal of Physical Education and Sport and has been selected as an Editor for the Journal Cient Periodique.
- A Yemeni Fellow at Cambridge University, with the support of the Royal Society, has been granted a Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) Visa, in recognition of their exceptional academic potential.

### I am Mustapha from Iraq

As a civic activist, writer and defender of minority rights and someone who dedicated his life to fight for better governance and combating corruption, I found my safety under imminent risk. At the end of 2017, I was advised by a friend to reach out to Cara and seek their assistance. From the moment Cara's staff learnt about my case, they expressed a true intention to help. Ever since, until my arrival in the UK, they constantly made me feel that I have the kind of support I needed. Cara helped me significantly in many ways: to begin with, Cara was essential to find a hosting institution for me here in the UK. Although finding a placement was not smooth, the persistence of Cara to help eventually brought the fruit. As I became ready to leave Iraq, my case worker in Cara made sure that I leave the country safely and arranged for picking me up from airport and had already arranged for my first week

accommodation. Upon arrival, Cara's staff were always around to support: they supported with almost every single issue in whatever way possible, from renting a house, to opening bank account, to finding affordable furniture and so forth. For someone in a new country and culture, having the professional advice from Cara made my transition to happen easier. What interests me, among many other things about Cara, is that from the moment of my first contact with Cara until now, they have never left any question unanswered or any concerns not addressed, before and after the departure from home. They are, in two words, professional and diligent people.

I am now confident that Cara not only has saved lives of many across the world, but it also helped many to start a new beginning in a safer environment and helped them to flourish professionally.

*"I just would like to thank you for your endeavour to make every Cara fellow's experience successful"*

Cara Fellow from Syria

## CARA SYRIA PROGRAMME

Our Syria Programme entered its third year in late 2018 with over 400 Syrian academics registered on our database, over 130 of whom are actively engaged in one of more of the six Syria Programme strands (activities). The Programme is delivered primarily in Turkey, but also reaches out to colleagues in exile in other countries in the region.

The Open Society Foundations remain the principal funder, providing over \$1.5m since 2016 with a further 12-month award in process. In 2018, \$425,000 was secured from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation for a 10-month pilot dedicated to Arts and Humanities activities; in early 2019, they invited a bid for a further \$990,000 for a two-year programme as a follow-up.

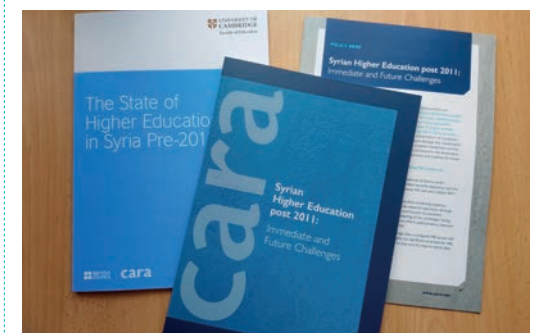
Many UK universities and their staff offer vital financial and in-kind support through their engagement online and in monthly Istanbul workshops. Over 150 university experts in English for Academic Purposes, education and individual disciplines volunteered as online tutors, webinar presenters, mentors, principal investigators, RIV hosts, and steering or working group members. Over twenty Research Incubation Visits (RIVs) of up to eight weeks each were hosted by Birkbeck, Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Kent, Leicester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Oxford, Reading, Sheffield and Sussex. The total value of individual and institutional support in 2018-19 was well over £500,000. Our Syria Programme and its participants owe all our partners a massive debt of gratitude.

A number of individually and co-authored Syria Programme papers were published or accepted for publication in 2018/19 in respected international peer-reviewed journals, with other submissions pending. A Syria Programme special issue of 'Education and Conflict Review' will also be published in late 2019. Two Cara-



Participants in the first Arts and Humanities workshop wrote and then signed up to the Istanbul Declaration, committing themselves to work together for the intellectual development of Syrian society.

commissioned Reports on Higher Education in Syria pre- and post-2011, involving 20 Syrian academics as co-researchers with support from Cambridge University's Faculty of Education, were launched at Cara's 17 June 'Meet the Fellows' event (see below). Publication remains a priority target



Cara's two Reports on Higher Education in Syria, launched on 17 June 2019

output from our Programme, to support the dissemination of research findings by our Syrian colleagues, raise their academic profiles internationally, and demonstrate the intrinsic value of their knowledge, experience and expertise to those responding to the Syria crisis and interested in the longer-term future of Syria.

Our Programme also secured support from the UK Global Challenges Research Fund, in partnership with UK universities, to run three two-day Round Tables at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, bringing together experts from across the academic, INGO, NGO, UN, government and practitioner sectors. The first, led by the University of Edinburgh, was on 'Food Security and Livelihoods', and moving forward from the short-term provision of

humanitarian food supplies and agricultural inputs towards a sustainable longer-term strategy and ultimately, reconstruction. The second, on 'Higher Education in Syria' and led by the University of Kent, drew on lessons from earlier conflicts, with contributions from Palestine, South Africa, Kenya, Northern Ireland, Belarus, Croatia and Serbia, as well as from Syria. The third, led by Cara, was based on the findings of the two Cara-commissioned studies to develop strategies on 'Syrian Higher Education: Immediate and Future Challenges', which highlight the importance of support for Syrian academics in exile as the guardians of Syria's intellectual and cultural capital. Reports from each Round Table were made available in September 2019, with follow-on meetings in late 2019 and early 2020.

*“There are many checkpoints inside and outside the city ... Every week, about two or three people are killed by sniper shootings ... Next year I will be wanted for military service, by that time, I need to be out.”*

Cara Fellow from Syria

*“I am really happy and blessed to have Cara behind me. You are amazing people. I am really delighted and thrilled.”*

Cara Fellow from Syria

*“On my last placement day, I would sincerely like to thank you for your very generous sponsorship and your incomparable support. You have given to my career a massive boost, I feel I am now able to look for the next step with all confidence and enthusiasm.”*

Cara Fellow from Syria

## A Syrian Academic's Story

My name is Adnan Almohamad. In 2009, having completed my Master's in Archaeology of the Ancient Near East and Egypt in France, I returned to Syria and worked at the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums and as a University lecturer. When Syrians started demonstrating peacefully, I joined them, clapping and singing for freedom and equality, but the regime began kidnapping and shooting activists. You could find yourself labelled a terrorist without any proof.

Eastern Aleppo, where I lived with my family, was for a long time the battle frontline. We were under permanent threat. You can't tell an exploding barrel bomb that you are a peaceful human being in search of freedom and better conditions, so we fled east, to the city of Manbij.

In 2013, I formed a volunteer team to document violations against archeological sites in the area. We worked in dangerous conditions with many challenges, and no financial resources or even a camera to work scientifically. In 2014, ISIS occupied Manbij, putting us at risk again, seeing innocent people die and everything good demolished. We fled Syria, seeking the safety of our souls in the south of Turkey.

In Turkey, life and conditions were difficult, jobs limited and wages low. I worked more than 12-hour days with no time to think about my academic future. In December 2018, I left my family to seek work in Istanbul. I met a friend who told me about the Cara Syria Programme, and I joined a first workshop in January 2019. It was a turning point in my life. I was awarded a grant to conduct research on 'The Destruction and Looting of Cultural Heritage Sites by ISIS in Syria: the case of Manbij and its countryside', followed by a Research Incubation Visit to Birkbeck College and Durham University.

After more than seven years, the Syria Programme helped me return to my academic life. It gave me the opportunity to connect with Syrian and foreign academics, to acquire academic research skills and improve my English. Cara is the rope that drew me out of the bottom of a dark well.

## A UK Academic's Story

During the past year I've been working with Cara's Syria Programme, supporting Syrian colleagues' work on cultural heritage, primarily through workshops held in Istanbul. During one of those visits I was introduced to Adnan Almohamad and was immediately struck by his passion for Syrian archaeology. Adnan had worked with the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums before the conflict but had been forced to flee the country. He nonetheless continued his work, studying antiquities trafficking and the destruction of Syrian archaeological sites.

Birkbeck College has a long history of supporting refugees and at-risk academics; we have long been a Cara member and we also run the Compass Project, which provides access to Higher Education for refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. So, when Cara asked about the possibility of Adnan undertaking a Research Incubation Visit to Birkbeck, I knew Birkbeck would be supportive. I was right, and colleagues, especially Jan Rueger, Head of the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, bent over backwards to support Adnan's visit, making him an Honorary Research Fellow in our Department.

Adnan's visit provided the opportunity for him to attend a range of conferences and workshops, including the *Congress of the Fédération internationale des associations d'études classiques* and a conference on cultural property hosted by the Roman Society. He was able to meet a broad range of scholars at UK universities. Perhaps the most important aspect of his visit, however, was simply the dedicated time to work on his research project supported by extensive research facilities in London and beyond. I'm honoured to be able to support Adnan's continuing scholarship and Cara's important work.

Professor Jen Baird  
Department of History, Classics and Archaeology  
Birkbeck College, University of London

February 2019: Syrian students protest after jihadists closed many education centres in Idlib province, Syria.





## CARA SCOTLAND MANAGER: Reflections on the role since November 2018



The Cara Scotland Manager role is a newly created position, funded and hosted by the University of Edinburgh. Working closely with colleagues in the London office, my role is to manage

Cara's partnership and engagement across Scotland's higher education and research communities, learned societies and civic society groups. I have been in post for eight months and have greatly enjoyed shaping this new role.

There are sixteen universities in Scotland and I have visited nine of them so far, meeting university Cara representatives, Fellows and supervisors and sharing ideas of how we could strengthen and improve our partnership. We were pleased to welcome the University of the Highlands and Islands to our UK Universities Network this year, which means that fifteen out of sixteen Scottish universities are now engaged with Cara.

A highlight of the first year was the 'Cara Scotland Conference' in May 2019, kindly hosted by the University of Abertay in Dundee. We had thirty-four attendees - Cara Fellows and supervisors, university

Cara representatives, and participants from other institutions with an interest in Cara's work including the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Amnesty International, Universities of Sanctuary and the Scottish Refugee Council. We took advantage of the networking opportunities to firm up financial support for one Fellow and lay the foundations for others. And we gained a few new donors for our '10x20' individual donor appeal which is always welcome!

Projects in progress include a mentoring programme for Cara Fellows, support with career development, a lecture this autumn in conjunction with the RSE and Research Incubation Visits under the Syria Programme.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the job is meeting the Cara Fellows and learning how, with Cara's support and the generosity of their host universities, they have regained their identity as academics and returned to research. Five new Fellows and their families will be arriving soon and will be hosted by a variety of universities, bringing the total of Cara Fellows in Scotland to fourteen. I'm very much looking forward to meeting these new Fellows and assisting them to settle in Scotland. And if you're reading this in Scotland and want to get involved, please contact me – Sheila Mills, mills@cara.ngo!

*“As a female surrounded by male-dominant culture, I can't object or say no to any decision as it is dangerous to go against a family-based gang system.”*

Cara Fellow from Palestine

## CARA 'MEET THE FELLOWS' EVENT, 17 June 2019

A Cara reception on 17 June at the Royal Society of Medicine, generously sponsored by the April Trust, attracted over 200 guests and provided an opportunity for many of our supporters to meet our Fellows at first hand and to hear their remarkable stories. It was also the occasion for the launch of Cara's new Fellowship Programme video (available at <http://bit.ly/CFPVid>) and for the presentation of two Cara Syria Programme reports on the state of Higher Education in Syria before and after 2011 (video recording and Report texts are available at <http://bit.ly/CSPRV>).



Lord Neuberger delivering his keynote address, 17 June 2019

Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, former President of the Supreme Court and the eldest son of Albert Neuberger who was helped by Cara in the 1930s, delivered the keynote address. Cara's founding in 1933, he argued, showed that “not everyone was asleep at the wheel when the Nazis took over the German government.” Unfortunately, there was no less need today for Cara's remarkable work. The world was becoming a less safe place for academics. Even in Europe, intolerant and doctrinaire governments in Poland and Hungary were putting academics under threat, to varying degrees, as was the rise of the ‘intolerant right’ in many other previously enlightened European countries. There were other

unexpected threats to academic freedom too, including from universities themselves where those who held unpopular views or who were engaged in controversial research could find themselves boycotted or marginalised. Even if these were at the moment isolated incidents, such incidents could snowball in the modern world, where electronic media could provoke a global flash flood of misleading images and half-true, or completely untrue, messages.

Concluding with some stories of his father's experiences with Cara (known then as the SPSL), Lord Neuberger said that without Cara's help his father would probably have died in a concentration camp, and he, his brothers and all their families would not have existed. So he had a strong personal reason, as well as powerful moral and cultural reasons, for supporting what Cara had done and was still doing to help people who had so much to contribute to move from countries where they were being persecuted to countries where they could live and work in peace.

A video recording of Lord Neuberger's address is available at <http://bit.ly/CaraLdN>.

Two Cara Fellows, Dr Leila Alieva from Azerbaijan and Dr Farah Ali from Iraq, spoke movingly about their experiences of leaving their own countries and coming to study and work in the UK. A video recording is available at <http://bit.ly/CarFVid>.

Cara's new Chair, Professor Michael Worton, concluded the evening's presentations with an appeal for funding. Many universities were already providing generous support, but Cara was now looking also to individuals who shared Cara's aims, who cared about the persecuted, and who wanted to be more engaged in Cara's work. With more funds, Cara could help even more people to get to safety. A video recording of his appeal is available at <http://bit.ly/MW10x20>.

## UK PARTNERSHIPS

Our closest relationship is with all the members of the UK Universities Network, without whose practical and financial support we couldn't function. We were delighted to welcome four new Network members in 2018/19, and look forward to further growth in the year ahead. A full list of the Network members is on page 17.

We continued our close collaboration with the British Council throughout 2018/19. 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 working with us on the first of the two Syria Programme reports, on the State of Higher Education in Syria before 2011.

In July 2019 we agreed with the Trustees of the Sir Hans Krebs Trust to continue our cooperation for a fourth 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 2019/20.

In 2018/19 we continued our 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) is helping to 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, and are in discussions with them about a further award.

In early 2019 we nominated our third '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 transferable skills in critical thinking, communications, networking and public engagement.

Throughout 2018/2019 we continued our cooperation with the Society for Applied Microbiology (SfAM), who generously provide support for a Cara Fellow in their special field.

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.

## UK NETWORK UNIVERSITIES, 2019

In the course of 2018/19 we welcomed four more universities to the UK Network – Aberystwyth, East Anglia, Northumbria and Highlands and Islands, followed in August 2019 by Swansea – bringing the total to 120. Network members generously offer 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 | Aberystwyth | 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 | East Anglia | East London | Edinburgh | Edinburgh Napier | Essex | Exeter | Glasgow | Glasgow Caledonian | Glasgow School of Art | Goldsmiths College | Goodenough College | Greenwich | Heriot Watt | Hertfordshire | Highlands and Islands | Huddersfield | Hull | Imperial College | UCL | 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 | Northumbria University Newcastle | Nottingham | Nottingham Trent | Open | 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 | Solent | South Wales | Staffordshire | Stirling | Strathclyde | St Andrews | Sunderland | Surrey | Sussex | Swansea | University of the Arts London | University College London | Ulster | Warwick | Westminster | West of England | West of Scotland | Winchester | Wolverhampton | Worcester | Wrexham Glyndwr | York | York St John |

*"I was arrested in front of my house. I worked so hard for my attorney's licence, I was doing my PhD, I was buying my office, but everything was gone in a moment."*

Cara Fellow from Iran

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

There is no other organisation like Cara in Europe, but we work with 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). Recent US visa restrictions on applicants from several Middle Eastern countries, including Syria, have led to an increased focus on joint placements with SAR and SRF in the UK; we have also worked with SAR on placements in Canada. In 2018 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 formed in 2010 to highlight the problem of targeted attacks on education, particularly during armed conflict. The Coalition's biggest achievement so far has been the launch in 2013 of a project which, under the leadership of Norway and Argentina, then developed into the 'Safe Schools Declaration'. GCPEA's work to persuade more countries to adopt the Declaration and the accompanying Guidelines continued throughout 2018/19 and by July 2019, 95 countries – almost half of all UN members states – had adopted both. This is already making a real difference to those caught up in conflict, with many endorsing states taking steps to enshrine

their positive decision in domestic legislation and military doctrine. We were also closely involved in the preparation of GCPEA's flagship publication, Education under Attack 2018, and are now working with our GCPEA partners on Education under Attack 2020.

In 2018/19 we also continued to work with the Philipp Schwartz Initiative (PSI), run by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation with support from the German Foreign Ministry and a number of German foundations, which provides funding for at-risk academics at German universities. So far, Cara has supported twenty-two successful applications in five application rounds, and is now working with several German universities on applications for the sixth round. Several Cara Fellows are now working at German universities with PSI support. Cara's Executive Director also spoke at the related 'Forum for Academic Freedom', organised by the Humboldt Foundation in Berlin in March 2019, and has agreed to attend the next session in Berlin in March 2020. In 2018, Cara also continued its cooperation with the French funding scheme for at-risk academics, the Programme national d'aide à l'Accueil en Urgence des Scientifiques en Exil (PAUSE), from which several Cara Fellows have so far benefited.

*"I just wanted to thank you for helping me, building a new life and academic career. It's the most important thing in my life."*

Cara Fellow from Turkey

## FUNDRAISING

Cara has to raise new funds every year, to be able to continue its work. We are enormously grateful to the 80 UK universities who contributed £311,000 in voluntary annual subscriptions in 2018/19 – roughly two-thirds of Cara's annual running cost bill.

Our '10 x 20' fundraising initiative, launched in November 2017 and aimed, ultimately, at getting 10% of those working in higher education in the UK to contribute £20 per year, is continuing to grow; as at 31 July 2019, we had nearly 200 Direct Debit subscribers, pledging over £30,000 per year. We will work to increase this further in 2019/20, to strengthen our funding base. We also received many generous one-off donations, including donations in memory and gifts to mark a wedding or anniversary.

During 2018/19 the following foundations, trusts and other organisations also generously provided support:

- Andrew W Mellon Foundation
- Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund
- April Trust
- David and Elaine Potter Foundation
- Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust
- French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Harbour Foundation
- Minerva
- Newby Trust
- Northern Consortium
- Open Society Foundations
- Sir Hans Krebs Trust
- Sir Joseph Hotung Charitable Settlement
- Society for Applied Microbiology
- Thriplow Charitable Trust
- Whitaker Charitable Trust
- Wolfson Foundation
- Worshipful Company of World Traders

We are very grateful to all our donors; we could not continue without them.



### CARA 'SCIENCE AND CIVILISATION' LECTURE

The Royal Society has once again kindly agreed to host our annual 'Science and Civilisation' Lecture, which will be given by the distinguished philosopher and Cara Patron, Baroness Onora O'Neill, in late October 2019.

Baroness O'Neill was the 2017 winner of two prestigious awards, the Holberg Prize, for her influential role in ethical and political philosophy, and the Berggruen Prize for Philosophy and Culture, for work which had "elevated the quality of public life and improved the very vocabulary of public discourse".

She will speak to us about 'Communication and Democracy in a Digital Age'. If you would like to attend, please contact [info@cara.ngo](mailto:info@cara.ngo).

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IN 2018

In 2018/19 most universities continued to pay the funds they were providing for accommodation and living costs for the Cara Fellows they were hosting as restricted donations to Cara, rather than paying the Fellows direct. The total value of new placements in 2018, including fee waivers, accommodation and other in-kind support from universities, fell back from the peak of just under £6 million seen in 2017, reflecting the fact that most of the awards made in that year covered several years; but new awards in 2018 still totalled over £4m, in line with the 2016 figure, making a total of some £14m over the three-year period 2016-18.

As a result of these payments, and of funding received for our Syria Programme, Cara's final income in 2018 totalled £2,598,478, a further significant increase (2017: £2,230,635). Expenditure and

commitments on awards and programme and project work for the year amounted to £2,147,739 (2017: £2,053,886), and Governance Costs were £17,879 (2017: £15,807). The total net movement of funds was a surplus of £414,061 (2017: a surplus of £181,246). On a cash basis, there was a surplus of £594,589 (2017: £159,264). These large surpluses are mainly due to the advance receipt of restricted funding for Fellowships and for the Syria Programme, which is already committed for 2019. Further information is given in the accounts starting at page 22.

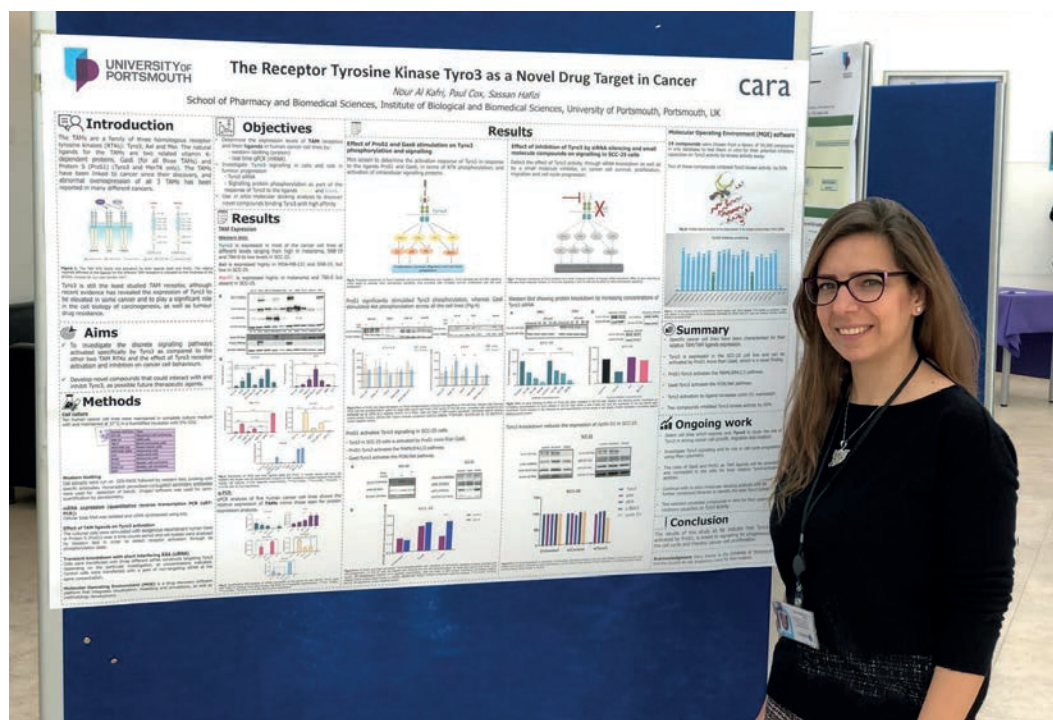
During 2018, the total value of assets held by Cara's investment advisers, Investec, fell slightly from £302,334 to £290,237, reflecting market uncertainties at the year-end, but by 31 July 2019 had more than recovered, reaching £318,421.



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 Fellow Nour at Portsmouth with her poster exhibition.

# cara | '10 x 20'

Please go to [www.cara.ngo/10-x-20-appeal](http://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 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
<b>Income</b>		
Donations and legacies	2,592,010	2,223,074
Investments	6,468	7,561
Gains / (losses) on investments	(15,657)	20,304
<b>Total income</b>	<u>2,582,821</u>	<u>2,250,939</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Raising funds	3,142	3,051
Charitable activities:		
Grants payable	1,685,260	1,556,530
Programme and project work	462,479	494,305
Governance	17,879	15,807
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>2,168,760</u>	<u>2,069,693</u>
<b>Net income (expenditure) for the year</b>	<u><u>414,061</u></u>	<u><u>181,246</u></u>

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 £ 431,352 (2017 – net gain £163,962).

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 2018 which have been audited by ourselves.

David Warren BA FCA Senior statutory auditor, 5 June 2019

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

**BALANCE SHEET**  
as at 31st December 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	4,839	8,781
Investments	290,236	302,334
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<u>295,075</u>	<u>311,115</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	221,037	98,559
Cash at bank and in hand	1,359,909	765,319
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>1,580,946</u>	<u>863,878</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(915,338)	(628,370)
<b>Net current assets (liabilities)</b>	<u>665,608</u>	<u>235,508</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u><u>960,684</u></u>	<u><u>546,623</u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>		
Restricted Income Funds	706,601	291,584
Unrestricted Funds - general	263,989	247,663
Unrestricted Funds - revaluation reserve	(9,906)	7,376
<b>Total charity funds</b>	<u><u>960,684</u></u>	<u><u>546,623</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 5 June 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

PROF MICHAEL WORTON (Trustee)  
DAVID URE (Trustee)

Company Registration No: 00641687 Charity Registration No: 207471

## GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

Mrs Anne Lonsdale stood down as Chair of Cara in March 2019 after nearly nine years in the role, and Professor Michael Worton, previously Honorary Secretary, was elected by the other Trustees to succeed her. Professor Alan McCarthy was elected to succeed Professor Worton in the role of Honorary Secretary. Mrs Lonsdale remains a Trustee of Cara.

### 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 at 31 July 2019

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

**Hon Secretary:** Professor Alan McCarthy, Emeritus Professor of Microbiology, University of Liverpool

**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, Visiting Professor, Canterbury Christ Church University

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

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

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

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

### Staff as at 31 July 2019

**Executive Director:** Stephen Wordsworth CMG LVO

**Deputy Director, Fellowship Programme Manager:** Zeid Al-Bayaty

**Scotland Manager:** Sheila Mills

**Middle East Adviser:** Kate Robertson

**Senior Fellowship Programme Officer:** Sana Ibrahim

**Fellowship Programme Officer:** Narmin Ali

**Fellowship Programme Officer:** Laura Puiggalí

**Fellowship Programme Officer:** Oscar Saunders

**Fellowship Programme Officer:** Lucia Simms

**Fellowship Programme Officer (part-time):** Riman Salim

**Syria Programme Officer:** Alice Lubbock

**Syria Programme Officer:** Ipek Velioglu Melis

**Syria Programme Assistant:** Célestine Fünfgeld

**Syria Programme Assistant (part-time):** Chloe Palmer

### 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 | Oscar Saunders | Lilla Schäffer | Abutab Abbasova | Sarah Petter | Spencer Corin | Imogen Smith | George Lam | Giulia Tanasi | Evie Ackery

### Data Protection

In view of the sensitivity of the personal information that Cara processes, Cara is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Cara's registration may be viewed at: <https://ico.org.uk/ESDWebPages/Entry/ZA066134>

*"I have been passing through a hard time, Cara was with me in all that time, helping, supporting, phoning and checking up on me. A MASSIVE THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for everything"*

Cara Fellow from Syria

(Front Cover) November 2018: A protest in Budapest against the Hungarian government's education, science and university policy.

Cara (Council for At-Risk Academics)  
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info@cara.ngo  
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.

ATTILA KISBENEDEK/AFP/Getty Images

