

APPENDIX 3 – RECOMMENDATIONS & REJECTIONS – COMBINED EDUCATION CHARITY

Applicant: Prisoners of Conscience (PoC) Appeal Fund (Ref: 15024) (213766)

Amount Requested: £15,000

Amount Recommended: £15,000

Originally established in 1962 as the relief arm of Amnesty International the Prisoners of Conscience (PoC) Appeal Fund is an independently constituted Charity. A grant making organisation they make grants specifically to prisoners of conscience – individuals who have been persecuted for their conscientiously held beliefs, provided that they have not used or advocated violence. Their grant recipients include political prisoners, human rights defenders, teachers and academics who come from different countries such as Burma, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Tibet, Iran and Eritrea.

Financial Position:

For the year ending December 2017 the Charity had a turnover of £284,249 and held reserves of £66,262. Most of the organisations income comes from donations, grant and legacies. The Charity have forecast a slight increase in turnover in 2018 but not significant.

Year end as at 31 December	2017 Examined £	2018 Forecast £	2019 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	284,249	326,175	329,947
- % of Income confirmed as at 29/10/2018	n/a	65%	1%
Expenditure	(289,844)	(323,108)	(329,226)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(5,595)	3,067	721
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	4,268	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(9,863)	3,067	721
	(5,595)	3,067	721
Cost of Raising Funds			
Cost of Raising Funds	60,148	60,000	8,050
- % of income	21.2%	18.4%	2.4%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	201,493	161,616	229,786
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	66,262	69,329	70,050
No of months of operating expenditure	3.9	5.1	3.7
Reserves policy target	60,000	60,000	60,000
No of months of operating expenditure	3.6	4.5	3.1
Free reserves over/(under) target	6,262	9,329	10,050

Detail of Request:

We are applying for bursary grants for two PoC beneficiaries who exercised an act of conscience for human rights and as a result were persecuted and forced to flee to the UK. Details of the two beneficiaries:

(1) BO worked for a Kurdish NGO (Migration Foundation), was a political activist and was forced to flee to the UK from Turkey. PoC awarded BO a post-graduate grant to study at the University of Sussex in 2016 - an MA in Human Rights. They had paid for the first year themselves and had saved half the costs of year two. They were awarded £3,106. BO is now applying for the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme (QLTS), Barnet for 2017/18.

(2) OE received a PoC bursary grant in 2015 for an LLM at Birkbeck, University of London. OE is Kurdish (from Turkey) and was harassed and persecuted due to their ethnicity. They were smuggled out of Turkey in 1999 in a lorry and granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK in 2001. They have completed an LLB and an LLM at Birkbeck. They are applying for funds for the Legal Practice Course in Holborn to qualify as a solicitor.

Outcomes:

- Financial assistance for two bursary students.
- Assist the Combined Education Charity to meet its own charitable purpose by supporting post-graduate students in Barnet and Camden further their education.
- Both beneficiaries to qualify and become self-sufficient. They have suffered significant hardship as result of their stand for human rights and PoC are supporting them to positively transform their lives.
- As is often the case with PoC beneficiaries, they are likely to add significantly to society in London after qualification by using their careers for the protection and advancement of human rights; particularly as both beneficiaries are law graduates.

Officer Comment:

This application is looking for £15,000 to cover the cost of two bursary grants for two individuals that PoC are working with. The funding will cover the course costs of each of the individuals listed above who have seen significant trauma in their lives and are no longer able to live in their countries due to persecution.

BO will be studying a QTLS in Mill Hill Barnet over a one year period. The total course cost is £7,468 and PoC are applying for a £5,000 contribution in line with your policy.

OE will be studying a Legal Practice Course at BPP over two years. Course Fees are £8,000 annually and PoC have applied for £10,000 over two years towards the course fees in line with your policy.

PoC will manage the bursaries and make the funding conditional on the beneficiaries staying in touch, outlining their academic achievements and providing updates on what they do in the future. Each year PoC take provide 10 bursaries for individuals who are referred to them from across the UK. Your funding is being sought to support two individuals who both live and will be studying in London. At assessment it was clear that PoC have appropriate due diligence and vetting processes in place and are working with individuals who would struggle to find other funding to progress academically.

Recommendation:

PoC are a well-established Charity that are set up to make a variety of grants to individuals who have been persecuted for their conscientiously held beliefs and who are now residents of the UK. The City of London had previously supported this organisation and after the service based review on grant making lost out on funding due to changed criteria. This application has demonstrated how it meets the criteria of the Combined Education Charity as it will be supporting the bursary costs of individuals studying and living in London. The added benefit of this scheme is that PoC have a robust approach to selecting individuals and also track progress of grantees so will be able to provide details of how your funding has helped specific individuals. Funding is therefore recommended as follows:

£15,000 to support the bursary costs of two individuals that will be managed by the Prisoners of Conscience Charity.

Combined Education Charity – Recommendations

15033	City of London Academy Islington	<p>Purpose: To support the development of a Lead Practitioner to improve teaching and learning that leads to outstanding student outcomes.</p> <p>Educational Merit: This would allow us the opportunity to train and accredit our best practitioners, improving professional skills and expertise, helping embed and extend teaching and learning that impacts positively on student outcomes. This would also support us with recruiting and retaining excellent staff and develop future leaders of learning. The training package includes external CPD and ongoing online support.</p>
		<p>Officer Comment: This application is for £2,200 to pay for the School, Students and Teachers Network (SSAT) Lead Practitioner accreditation for a cohort of teachers and practitioners at the City of London Academy Islington. The accreditation provides schools with a tool to drive whole-school improvement, with a cohort of Lead Practitioners being supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruit, retain and develop future leaders for learning - Evaluate everyone's individual impact, identifying their strengths and areas to develop - Introduce a framework of standards with impact at its core - Build a culture of effective, evidence-informed teaching and learning - Structure a school-wide professional development plan <p>The package includes identification of potential research projects and school improvements and 2-hour support sessions. The course will start in January and be completed in July 2019.</p> <p>The City of London Corporation in its general corporate capacity (City's Cash) co-sponsors City of London Academy Islington (COLAI) with the City University London and appoints elected Members to serve as company members and Directors/Trustees. The Education Board retains strategic oversight of the City's co-sponsorship of COLAI. Whilst the City as co-sponsor has no direct financial obligation to the academy trust, it is expected to offer on-going assistance and support to the academy trust to engender success. The assistance may be financial or in-kind. The City Corporation does provide financial and in-kind support to the academy trusts which it</p>

	<p>sponsors (from City's Cash), through a structured application process under the control of the Education Board.</p> <p>The City of London Corporation's co-sponsorship of COLAI has been considered during assessment of this project. This sub-committee in collectively discharging the City Corporation's duties as trustee of the City Educational Trust Fund and in considering the application from COLAI must take a decision which is only in the best interests of this charity. It is considered that there is no overriding conflict of interest for the City Corporation which would prevent the application being considered, as the City Corporation as co-sponsor will not receive any direct or indirect financial benefit as a consequence of any funding award from the City Educational Trust Fund and as the application has been submitted through an open, public application process and assessed on its merits against the published criteria. Further, it is considered that any conflicts of loyalty which may arise in members of this Sub-Committee also serving as a company member, trustee or school governor of COLAI can be managed through the transparent processes adopted by the City Corporation under the Members Code of Conduct and any conflict declared.</p> <p>This funding is designated for the development of staff at the City of London Academy and will further their development as teachers by giving them the skills to be Lead Practitioners and to train Lead practitioners of the future. This funding meets the criteria of the Combined Education Charity and funding is recommended as follows:</p> <p>£2,200 for a cohort of City of London Academy Teachers to take part in a SSAT Lead Practitioner accreditation.</p>
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Rejections – Applications from Organisations

15029	Performing Productions	<p>Purpose: Performing Production wants to bring training to help disadvantaged young people 18 or over to raise their game when being interviewed for employment or for other purposes. The training aims to help their engagement with external objectives of showing how intelligent and confident they can be in unexpected situations. Students will use their cameras or phones to record their performance and keep a written diary of their progression of improvement. The group will prioritise constructive analysis or appraisal referring to their personal notes.</p> <p>Educational Merit: The Educational merit of this application have not been drawn out as much of the activity is focused on interview skills and employability.</p>
		<p>Officer Comment: The application is for £10,110 towards cost of premises, coordination and associated project costs to deliver a training programme for young people to improve their employment prospects and interview skills. Although this application has its merits and will help to support young people into employment the applicant has not made it clear how the work will boost educational attainment. At assessment your officer noted that the organisation is a Community Interest Company which does not necessarily preclude them from funding from the Combined Education Charity but would require a decision from Trustees to agree to support an organisation like this outside of its set policy. The organisation has a small turnover and this grant would significantly increase its turnover. When your officer assessed the accounts of the organisation they noted a deficit in 2016 and 2017 which would be deemed as a financial risk at this stage. If your committee were in favour of this type of support, it would be recommended that feedback is provided to the organisation about drawing out the educational benefits of this work and providing more detail on how it is improving its financial position.</p>

15032	City of London Academies Trust (City of London Academy Shoreditch Park)	<p>Purpose: To enhance the cultural capital experience of our students through educational visits across London</p> <p>Educational Merit: We are developing the cultural capital of our Hackney students. We are unable to fund the cost of travel as well as ticket prices. We aim to further develop the education in Cultural Arts and Science and Technology. Trips will include Rowing at Downey Lake, Cycling at the Velo Park, trips to the Globe Theatre and the Natural History Museum.</p>
		<p>Officer Comment: The application is for £10,000 towards the cost of offering a range of trips and experiences to students at the City of London Academy Shoreditch Park. The application was extremely brief and very little detail was provided about how these activities would advance the education for the young people involved in the trips. Funding is recommended for rejection and feedback will be provided that substantial further information needs to be provided for any future applications to the Charity.</p> <p>The City of London Corporation in its general corporate capacity (City's Cash) sponsors City of London Academy Trust (CoLAT), which runs Shoreditch Park, and appoints elected Members to serve as company members and Directors/Trustees and CoLAT school governors. The Education Board retains strategic oversight of the City's sponsorship of CoLAT. Whilst the City as sponsor has no direct financial obligation to the academy trust, it is expected to offer on-going assistance and support to those academy schools to engender success. The assistance may be financial or in-kind. The City Corporation does provide financial and in-kind support to the academy trusts which it sponsors (from City's Cash), through a structured application process under the control of the Education Board.</p> <p>The City of London Corporation's sponsorship of CoLAT has been considered during assessment of this project. This sub-committee in collectively discharging the City Corporation's duties as trustee of the City Educational Trust Fund and in considering the application from CoLAT must take a decision which is only in the best interests of this charity. It is considered that there is no overriding conflict of interest for the City Corporation which would prevent the application being considered, as the City Corporation as sponsor will not receive any direct or indirect financial benefit as a consequence of any funding award from the City Educational Trust Fund and as the</p>

		<p>application has been submitted through an open, public application process and assessed on its merits against the published criteria. Further, it is considered that any conflicts of loyalty which may arise in members of this Sub-Committee also serving as a company member, trustee or school governor of CoLAT can be managed through the transparent processes adopted by the City Corporation under the Members Code of Conduct and any conflict declared.</p>
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Rejections – Applications from Individuals

15023	Applicant 1	<p>Purpose: The grant would be primarily used for maintenance and resources expenses. This will include travel expenses, utilities and perhaps help with rent (rent support will exceed the grant limit), also for books, stationary and food.</p> <p>Educational Merit: This funding will enable me to focus on my fulltime studies without having to worry excessively about finances nor working too many hours which will become detrimental to my studies. Essentially my current financial situation is such, that if I am unable to secure funding I will have to drop out from the course.</p> <p>The funding is essential for me to pursue my post graduate studies and it will enable me to progress academically and professionally. I am pursuing my Masters as part of my own personally development and progression with the hope of submitting a proposal for my PhD upon completion. The funding will ensure I am not deprived of an opportunity merely due to financial circumstances.</p>
		<p>Officer Comment: This application is seeking £5,000 towards travel expenses, books, stationary and utilities to support the applicant while studying an MA in Islamic Studies Full-Time at SOAS, University of London. The applicant has received full funding for the course from the National Zakat Foundation. The applicant is requesting support for the second half of their studies towards academic and subsistence expenses. The applicant is Living and Studying in London.</p>

		<p>Although this application meets the objects of the Combined Education Charity they have not demonstrated how they have unsuccessfully made determined efforts to access sufficient funds from elsewhere. They have been successful in receiving a Bursary grant for the full cost of the course. Additional to this your officer contacted the applicant several times to receive additional information required to assess the applicant's needs. No proof of circumstances was provided at application and no additional correspondence was received. Funding is therefore recommended for rejection as this application is incomplete.</p>
15025	Applicant 2	<p>Purpose: I'd really appreciate support helping me with various financial commitments that I have. Such as rent, car insurance, cost of travel and my home and internet costs and other bills. Also, study materials like reference books. Also, stationary.</p> <p>Educational Merit: If I could get a grant, then this would help my financial worries. I'd be able to focus more on my studying. This is especially important as I am going into the 2nd term of my final year.</p>
		<p>Officer Comment: This application is seeking £5,000 towards household costs including groceries, utility bills, rental arrears and to contribute to the applicant's daughter's university costs in the Czech Republic. The applicant is studying an HND in Business Management at St Patrick's College in Tower Hill. This application was incredibly brief, and no effort has been put in to demonstrating how this funding application meets the criteria of the Combined Education Charity. No reference has been made to the educational benefit of this grant. No supporting information was provided by the applicant that is requested during the application process. This application is therefore recommended for rejection.</p>

15026	Applicant 3	<p>Purpose: Educational support- books, software, travel, household bills, rent.</p> <p>Educational Merit: It would make it easier for me to continue my studies with a top up year next year. And it will help my learning and development this year too. I am a mature student and deeply grateful for the opportunity to study but it is very difficult for me study properly without additional support. I have a £7,500 loan to pay back with NatWest. I am really struggling financially.</p>
		<p>Officer Comment: This application is seeking £5,000 towards rent, household bills, a moped licence and insurance and a contribution towards paying off a NatWest Bank loan. The applicant is studying an HND in Business Management at St Patrick's College in Tower Hill. The application is incredibly brief, and no work has been done to demonstrate the educational benefit this grant will make. It is not clear how this application will be furthering the objects of the Combined Education Charity and no supporting information was provided with the application for your officer to make a full assessment. This application is therefore recommended for rejection.</p>