

The following people have been appointed as Joseph Rowntree Visionaries for a Just and Peaceful World.

Karen Chouhan

Creating a black-led decision making approach to race equality in the UK.

Roy Head

Tackling inequality of information about health in the developing world.

Heather Parker/Mark Hinton (jobshare)

Building bridges between a local UK community and the developing world

Carne Ross

Helping marginalised countries through independent diplomacy

Clive Stafford Smith

Increasing human rights by closing Guantanamo Bay and other lawless enclaves

Geoff Tansey

Working for a fair and sustainable food system



For more information

visit www.jrct-visionaries.org.uk
or contact Di Stubbs on 07962 230032 or di@jrct.org.uk



TO MARK THE CENTENARY its founding, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust decided to look for Visionaries – people with a big idea that would increase peace and justice – and free them to pursue their vision by supporting them financially for five years. Six ‘visions’ have been selected and our seven Visionaries (one is a job-share) have already started to make a difference.

Joseph Rowntree was a Quaker business man with a lifelong concern for the alleviation of poverty and the other great social ills of his day. He made a considerable fortune from the chocolate company which bore his name and in 1904 transferred a large part of his wealth to three Trusts, each designed to reflect and develop different aspects of his thinking about contemporary social problems. His intention was to ‘strengthen the hands’ of those working to tackle the root causes of inequality in society.

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust maintains an adventurous approach to funding work that aims to make the world more fair and more peaceful.

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

When the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust was set up in 1904, it was a family affair, the Trustees comprising the founder and 5 relatives. The JRCT has flourished within the wider family of the Religious Society of Friends. Although it has no constitutional link to the Society, it draws its Trustees and senior staff from within the membership of the Society.

Many organisations have started through the Trust's support that have gone on to effect major changes in society. For example, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), Child Poverty Action Group, the Low Pay Unit, Public Concern at Work and the Runnymede Trust.

Current themes for the Trust's support are: Peace, Racial Justice, Ireland, South Africa, Quaker Concerns. The other centenary project is the POWER enquiry (Power and Responsibility) which looks for greater accountability and openness within corporate and political institutions. For more information on the JRCT, please see www.jrct.org.uk

Values

The purpose that has guided the Trust's work over the last 100 years has been that of creating a more just and more peaceful society. Over the years, a wide range of work has been supported and is underpinned by those concerns for truth and integrity, justice and equality, peace and conflict resolution which Quakers hold dear.

The Trust's core values reflect those of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The following describes some of these underlying values :

- Trying to discern those “who are effectively doing the work that needs to be done” (putting a high value on the change that can be wrought through the inspiration of individuals as well as through organisations)
- Addressing causes not symptoms (Joseph Rowntree referred to the importance of addressing and attacking the “underlying causes of weakness and evil in the community rather than remedying their more superficial manifestations” Founding Memorandum 1904)
- Pursuing and promoting non-violence in all its forms (“We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatever” Religious Society of Friends 1661)
- Valuing diversity (the diversity of the human spirit which is likely to be expressed in differences of style etc)
- Taking risks - recognising that risking failure is necessary to achieve outstanding success
- Recognising that how things are done is often as important as what is done
- Holding ourselves open to the guidance of the spirit (in secular terms, this could be termed as being a 'learning organisation')
- Using the power of the Trust funds in ways that do not undermine the responsibility or accountability of others

- Avoiding change for its own sake (recognising that much change is not beneficial to society)
- Being bold - recognising that the Trust's position requires us to take decisions with which others will disagree
- Ensuring equality of opportunity - in all dealings with people
- Trying to be humble - recognising that it may be possible to be mistaken.

Characteristically, work funded:

- is about removing problems through radical solutions, and not about making the problems easier to live with
- has a clear sense of objectives, and of how to achieve them
- is innovative and imaginative
- has a good chance of making a difference.

Joseph Rowntree

Joseph Rowntree was apprenticed to his father when he was 15 and he finally retired from business when he was 86. In the course of 71 working years, he saw the world turn away from the idea of paternalism towards the concept of industrial democracy. He played a significant part in this process.

The Rowntree business, dealing mainly in cocoa and chocolate, was a successful one, under Joseph's leadership. He was imaginative, far-sighted and a pioneer on social issues. The Quaker tradition played an important part in Joseph's life and work, providing him with the values and beliefs that were central to his way of working.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Quakers believe that there is 'that of God in everyone'. This means that Quakers believe in a society in which everyone is treated justly, all are valued and live in peace. The Trust operates through Quaker values but actively seeks to support worthwhile work from and within all faith communities and from those outside such communities.

The other Rowntree Trusts

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is one of the largest social policy research and development charities in the UK with a programme that seeks to better understand the causes of social difficulties and explore ways of overcoming them. They work in partnership with other organisations and institutions to conduct research and disseminate research www.jrf.org.uk.

The Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust promotes political reform and social change as well as the interests of social justice; it 'seeks to foster creative intervention by anticipating and brokering change within the body politic'. It is not a charity which allows it to engage in political activity. www.jrrt.org.uk