



## THE Joseph Rowntree REFORM TRUST LTD

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Immediate release

### **New chief executive for the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd**

Fiona Weir joins the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust this week as Chief Executive as the grant-making Trust begins to review its strategy for funding political campaigning in the Brexit era.

JRRT supports political campaigns in the UK to promote democratic reform, civil liberties and social justice. As a rare source of non-charitable, political funding, it does not make grants for projects that can be funded from charitable sources.

JRRT Chair, Sir Nick Harvey said:

"We are delighted to have secured Fiona Weir's considerable talents, networks and experience in the task of taking the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust to its next chapter.

"The political environment has seldom been more challenging to our Trust's mission of supporting civil liberties and democratic reform, in an open tolerant society.

"Fiona will take a leading role in helping us focus our grant making in the areas where we can most effectively speak truth to power and resist the tides of authoritarianism and nationalism which have gripped politics in recent months."

CEO Fiona Weir said:

"2016 is the year when the need to make the political system significantly more accountable, democratic and transparent, became painfully evident to all.

I welcome the opportunity to support campaigners defending liberty, freedom of expression, conscience and freedom from all forms of oppression, be that political, religious, economic or social and challenging the underlying causes of injustice."

ENDS

### **Notes to Editors:**

1. In referring to the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd, please use its full name to avoid confusion with the two other Trusts bearing Joseph Rowntree's name. Unlike this Trust, they are both registered charities, and their Boards, governance and priorities are totally separate.



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2. Recent examples of grants made by the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust include:
  - **Voice for Victims** to campaign for the establishment of enforceable victims' rights in statute.
  - **Digital Trust** to participate in the consultation on the new Investigatory Powers Bill and campaign to protect individuals' data and personal information from being accessed by potential digital abusers
  - **Electoral Reform Society** towards the creation of an online tool to help facilitate informed debate about Britain's membership of the European Union
  - **Labour Campaign for Human Rights** to campaign against mass surveillance in the UK and against the government's plans to abolish the Human Rights Act
  - **APPG on Extraordinary Rendition** to establish the truth about UK involvement
  - **Undercover Research Group** to make the case for transparency and disclosure in political policing
  
3. Fiona Weir has extensive campaign experience across a wide range of sectors having held posts at:
  - Gingerbread CEO 2008-16
  - Save the Children, Director of Policy and Communications 2002-07
  - Which? Head of Public Affairs 2000-02
  - Amnesty International Director of Campaigns 1995-2000
  - Friends of the Earth Air Pollution and Climate Change campaigner 1988-95

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