
Curriculum Vitae

SARA FIONA WHYATT

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I am a human rights professional with many years' experience of advocacy and research, with a specific expertise on freedom of artistic expression. I am now working as a freelancer, working on projects where I can contribute the skills and experience acquired over my extensive career.

Key Attributes

- Researcher on and advocate for freedom of expression, specifically on artistic freedom.
- Former senior manager for a major NGO, taking on strategic planning, team leadership and financial management.
- Respected team leader with well developed people management skills, building strong, long term relationships with staff, volunteers, memberships, colleague organisations and funders.
- Broad experience and knowledge of all aspects of rights advocacy, including research, individual casework, project management, report writing, media relations and fundraising.
- Hardworking, with a proven capacity and willingness to take on new challenges.
- Excellent communication skills, with experience of working with the media including press releases, interviews, presentations, article writing and editing.
- Experienced conference and workshop organiser, including designing programmes, running workshops and reporting.
- Successful fundraiser and grant writer, with sound budget and financial management skills.

Career History

April 2013 to date

Freelance Consultant

Projects on human rights strategy and advocacy including for: PEN International, Article 19, PEN Norway, Freemuse, Culture Action Europe and UNESCO. Editorial work for: Metis Publishing/Norwegian Non Fiction Writers' Association, PEN America, Turkish Publishers' Association.

Recent projects include:

- Current: research and authorship of a chapter on the promotion and protection of freedom of artistic expression for UNESCO global monitoring report on the Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions published in

2018, from which I am currently developing a training module for government officers and CSOs working in the cultural field, trialled in Ghana in May 2018.

- Editor of the 2017 annual reports for PEN International and Freemuse, both covering freedom of expression and artistic freedom globally.
- October 2015-to date: series of more than 50 short profiles of and interviews with human rights defenders, journalists and other global free expression advocates for the International Freedom of Expression Exchange web-site.
- February-August 2016: handbook on promotion of artistic freedom of expression for use by Europe-based arts and culture organisations;
- 2015: advisor to Turkish NGO, Siyah Bant, in developing and fundraising for a project on training artists in rights advocacy;
- February-June 2015: Consultant on a report on the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, specifically Artistic Expression
- January 2015: Developed and organised an event in Istanbul bringing together over 50 human rights defenders, artists, journalists and academics to observe the live web-cast from Geneva of the UN's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Turkey, followed by debate and development of future coalition strategies.

December 1990-March 2013

PEN International - Program Director, Freedom of Expression Program

- Led a team of researchers gathering information on attacks on freedom of expression world-wide.
- Developed and directed PEN's global campaign strategy mobilising its international membership towards an end to free expression abuses.
- Carried out monitoring, evaluation and strategic planning.
- Wrote and commissioned research and action papers on all aspects of PEN's activities world-wide.
- Lobbied governments and intergovernmental organisations, including the United Nations, OSCE, and EU.
- Established and ran a series of biennial international Writers in Prison Committee conferences, including panel debates and training sessions.
- Reported to and addressed international conferences.
- Collaborated with other non-governmental organisations and individuals sharing the same goals and objectives.
- Carried out fundraising and grant writing.
- Acted as senior advisor to the PEN Emergency Fund, and the International Cities of Refuge Network, providing assistance to writers at risk.

June 2010 – March 2013

PEN International

Interim Executive Director (June 2010-August 2011)

Deputy Director (August 2011-March 2013)

- Developed a strategy for the development of the organisation.
- Led finance management and budget monitoring.
- Developed fundraising programs.
- Oversaw human resources and oversight of the day to day management of staff and office.

February 1984 to December 1990

Amnesty International - Research and Campaign Coordinator, East Asia

As co-ordinator at Amnesty International's Asia Research Department, I ran AI's human rights campaign on East Asia (North and South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and Australia).

February 1982-February 1984

On File Media – Researcher and Office Manager

Helped to set up and run this news service providing news from Middle East to international businesses, one of the earliest on-line media services.

October 1980 – January 1982

Belbo Films – Research Assistant

Provided research and administrative support to the London office of this Amsterdam-based documentary film company specialising in human rights.

Academic

- 1994-1999 - BA 2:1 Social Policy, Goldsmiths College, University of London
(*part-time while working at PEN International*)
Dissertation on the flight of East European Roma to Britain.
- 2017-2019 (in process) – MA in Cultural Diplomacy, Goldsmiths College Institute of Cultural and Creative Entrepreneurship

Membership and Pro Bono Activities

- Associate, Free Word Centre: London-based centre for literature, literacy and free expression.
- Treasurer, Mycenae House Community Centre: based in South East London providing meeting spaces and services to the local community.
- Advisory Board Member, Centre for Turkey Studies: offering forums and debates with leading figures from Turkey and the Turkish community in London towards dialogue and understanding.

Publications (selection)

- Author of chapter on 'Promoting the freedom to imagine and create' the UNESCO 2018 Global Monitoring Report on the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Diversity of Cultures, 2018, *ReShaping Cultural Policies: Advancing creativity for development*
- *Know Your Rights: Arts Rights Justice public toolkit on artistic freedom*, with companion. For Culture Action Europe, Brussels. (2016)
- *Reshaping Cultural Policy: UNESCO Global Monitoring Report on the Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Diversity of Cultures*, chapter on freedom of artistic expression. (2015) – researcher and data analysis – a UNESCO commission.
- *Turkey: Freedom of expression under a shadow*. PEN Norway/Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2014)
- *The Gezi Resistance and a history of civil commotion*. Editor English language version. Metis Books, Istanbul. (2014)
- Writer of the "Silenced Voices" column for the respected quarterly US literary magazine *Glimmer Train* (2007-2012).

Referees available on request.