



Dear Friends of RSI

The past year was an impactful (and busy) one for RSI. We built movements. We broke news. In our investigations, we uncovered valuable new facts. We were principled, fact-based and outspoken. We supported others. And we started the pilot version of an advice service!

Our **Freedom of Expression and Belief** team produced three well-received and timely reports. The first looked at the policing of children by the counter-terrorism programme 'Prevent', and the information that the team later uncovered about the high numbers of autistic young people referred to the government programme prompted the TV presenter Chris Packham to call for Ofsted to stop treating autistic children as a threat. Our most recent research – a [literature review](#) of the (lack of) relationship between autism and violence – was published last week and establishes that there is no evidence of a direct causal link between autism and violence.

We have been pleased to note that the Home Office is now publishing improved equality demographic data about Prevent/Channel referrals, following our numerous freedom of information requests on the issue.

A third report by the team highlighted the challenges faced by peaceful protesters in Northern Ireland, including the need for 28 days' notice of a planned march, compared with only 6 days in England and Wales, and the fact that some local authorities require protesters to buy £10 million worth of insurance cover before a protest can go ahead. The team also gave evidence to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee on the Northern Ireland Troubles Bill and drew up a set of key performance indicators against which to hold the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery accountable.

Meanwhile, our **Migration, Citizenship and Belonging** team published research into the '[good character](#)' requirement for naturalising as a British citizen. The research outlined the racist roots and ongoing harms of the requirement, concluding that the way in which the UK applies it may violate international law. We continue to work on this issue.

Having gained accreditation with the Immigration Advice Authority, RSI began piloting a free immigration service for migrants in Northern Ireland. We aim to provide information directly to people about their rights while signalling that everyone 'belongs' in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

Our **Advancing Human Rights Movements** team made great progress in supporting locally based organisations in other countries to access advocacy opportunities during 2025. For example, they facilitated a visit to the UN in Geneva by some of our Kenyan partners, during which they engaged in joint advocacy ahead of the Universal Periodic Review of respect for human rights in Kenya.

The team is also busy researching the situation of environmental human rights defenders in different parts of the world, ahead of a RSI-led convening in Latin America next year (more of that in a future newsletter!).

Thank you for being a part of our successes, and we're looking forward to another year of accomplishments for RSI and the wider human rights community.

Thank you for all you do to support our work.

Yours sincerely

Sarah St Vincent
Executive Director



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