

REDRESS

Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors



Annual Review
2025



© Gary Roberts Photography.
The current armed conflict in Sudan has caused unprecedented devastation and harm to civilians, yet it has largely remained out of the public eye.



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ANNUAL REVIEW 2025

This Annual Review provides an overview of the activities and achievements carried out by REDRESS from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. However, some articles include developments in the relevant areas of work up until the date of printing.

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© CVWN. REDRESS worked with CVWN to promote the implementation of decisions awarding reparations to victims of conflict-related sexual violence in Nepal.

ABOUT REDRESS

REDRESS is an international human rights organisation that delivers justice and reparation for survivors of torture, challenges impunity for perpetrators, and advocates for legal and policy reforms to end torture.

We take on cases that address torture as a crime, a civil wrong, and a human rights violation, targeting both individual and state responsibility.

Our strategic approach combines legal action with advocacy, community engagement, and communications to drive systemic change.

OUR JOURNEY THIS YEAR



The movement against torture faces an uncertain future... And yet, there have been positive developments for accountability, with the indictment of heads of state, the conviction of torturers, and a pivot towards providing reparation for survivors.

Like many in the world, the movement against torture faces an uncertain future. The rise of authoritarian governments has led to more torture of those who dissent, and forceful attempts to dismantle the global human rights architecture.

The abrupt shift in state funding to military defence, most notably with the closure of USAID, has had a significant impact on the movement, with many of our national partners around the world having to abruptly scale down their activities, just as they are needed most. And yet, at the same time, there have been positive developments for accountability, with the indictment of heads of state, the conviction of torturers, and a pivot towards providing reparation for survivors.

REDRESS works with 100 NGOs around the world to deliver our mission. This collaborative partnership is an effective way to support the movement and allows us to amplify our impact. This year we were also able to enhance our financial support to those partners through our membership of the United Against Torture Consortium and the Global Initiative Against Impunity, providing additional financial partnerships to the movement.

The core mission of REDRESS is to obtain justice for survivors of torture, demonstrating that civil society can challenge impunity through a dedicated campaign on behalf of survivors. This year, REDRESS has worked with our national partners to deliver justice relating to CIA torture in Lithuania, and has promoted accountability for torture in countries including Myanmar, Cameroon, India, and Turkey, and delivered large-scale projects documenting

torture in Sudan, Egypt, and Belarus. By demonstrating that justice is possible, we chip away at the prevailing culture of impunity.

During the year we advanced policy work to encourage justice and reparation for torture. In the United Kingdom we pushed the new government to make good on their commitment to introduce a right to consular assistance for survivors of torture, and also encouraged them to take a global lead against torture with a consistent approach to the ban on torture in UK law and policy. We drew attention to the problem of torture in the context of hostage diplomacy, amplifying the voice of civil society on this important topic.

Survivors of torture are entitled to reparation, but this is difficult to deliver in practice. REDRESS has been exploring the practical steps that make the delivery of reparation more likely, and during the year shared this experience with our global partners. REDRESS successfully promoted the use of Magnitsky sanctions as a form of interim justice and interim reparative measures in many cases, including in Angola, Sudan, Iran, and Georgia. We continued to develop the debate on the need to repurpose fines for breaches of sanctions as reparation for survivors, generating significant interest from key stakeholders.

Torture is often used against those who dissent, and those who are different. We supported a case at the ECOWAS Court which found the Nigerian government had breached the rights of protesters at the Lekki Toll Gate protest, and drew attention to protest-related torture in countries such as Kenya, Georgia, Bangladesh, and Belarus. Our cases and projects challenged LGBTIQ+ torture in South Africa, Peru, Qatar, and sexual torture against women in Chad, Sudan, Nepal, DRC, and Uganda.

In these uncertain times, the Trustees and staff have decided to take a cautious approach to the management of the charity, to ensure that we are ready to respond to the threats that are coming. This will allow us to rise to the opportunity to respond, and raise our ambition to deliver justice for survivors of torture.



© De Sheng Lim

Rupert Skilbeck, Director



© UN Photo/Rick Barjonas

Sir Malcolm Evans, Chair

OUR STRATEGY

The REDRESS 2025 Strategy sets out the priorities for the charity, with specific deliverables developed each year by the staff and the Board of Trustees for each of the programme areas.

OUR VISION AND MISSION

The vision of REDRESS is a world without torture. Our mission is to deliver justice and reparation for survivors of torture, challenge impunity for perpetrators, and advocate for legal and policy reforms to combat torture.

OUR FOCUS AREAS

Under the 2025 Strategy, REDRESS focuses its work in five programme areas.



OUR VALUES



A SURVIVOR-CENTRED APPROACH.

We prioritise the interests and perspectives of survivors in our cases and campaigns.



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS.

We work in partnership with national civil society groups in the countries where we operate.



EXPERTISE AND INNOVATION.

We maintain expertise through high standards for research and litigation, and by the constant engagement with experts, academics, and practitioners.

OUR METHODS

HOLISTIC STRATEGIC LITIGATION AGAINST TORTURE

We represent individual clients but also use cases to challenge the underlying problem. We adopt a holistic approach, ensuring referrals for psycho-social support and accompanying survivors. We provide training and mentoring to partner NGOs.

POLICY ADVOCACY

We work with partners around the world to advocate for policy reforms that advance reparation for survivors, anti-torture laws and safeguards. Our advocacy is grounded in research and shaped by the voices of survivor communities.

COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MEDIA

We use traditional and social media to advance our litigation and policy advocacy, engage stakeholders, amplify survivors' voices, and raise our visibility, to increase our impact.

OUR IMPACT



© Carlos Barria/Reuters. REDRESS is working to provide justice and reparation to survivors of the war in Ukraine, including through the repurposing of confiscated Russian assets.

JUSTICE

**WE PURSUE LEGAL CLAIMS FOR SURVIVORS
AND THE PROSECUTION OF PERPETRATORS**

A core element of REDRESS's work is bringing legal claims to secure justice and promote the rights of survivors, both in the UK and globally, through the Global Initiative Against Torture.

SECURING JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS THROUGH LEGAL ACTION.

During the year, the European Court of Human Rights awarded €110,000 in compensation in two REDRESS cases against Turkey and Lithuania. We drew attention to on-going impunity for serious human rights abuses committed during counterterrorism operations after 9/11. These efforts led to resolutions from the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances finding that Lithuania has failed to investigate violations in relation to the case of our client, Al Hawsawi, who remains detained at Guantánamo Bay. We also developed new cases in Iran and Myanmar, pushed the UN to act on a torture case in Cameroon, and made five submissions to the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar exposing UK entities suspected of financially supporting the Myanmar military in its commission of international crimes. In India, our client Jagtar Singh Johal was cleared of all charges in one case against him due to lack of credible evidence. At the time of writing, we continue to advocate for his release, as he remains in custody, facing eight more cases built on the same confession obtained under torture.

ADVANCING POLICY REFORM.

REDRESS helped reactivate the Victims' Rights Working Group, a broad coalition of civil society organisation whose aim is to ensure that victims' rights and needs are met throughout the International Criminal Court's (ICC) judicial process. Our advocacy with partners has helped inform the ongoing ICC Victims' Strategy review, making it more inclusive and survivor-centred. We also advocated for stronger support for victims of international crimes in the European Union and influenced recommendations by the UN Committee against Torture on the need to ensure redress for all victims of torture in Ukraine. At the UN General Assembly, we called for corporate accountability in Myanmar and innovative funding for reparations for survivors. The UN Fact-Finding Mission on Iran echoed our recommendations on exercising universal jurisdiction in cases involving foreign and dual nationals arbitrarily detained in Iran, and the creation of a victims' fund by identifying existing assets within national jurisdictions.

PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY.

We strengthened the capacity of human rights defenders in Sudan through a workshop in The Hague which resulted in the development of several strategy documents to improve accountability with the ICC, the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan (FFM Sudan), national war crimes and sanctions units. We contributed to the the FFM Sudan's findings on arbitrary detention and torture and supported the extension of its mandate through our advocacy. Our advocacy also influenced six States to call on Egypt to end torture during The UN Universal Periodic Review of Egypt.

URGING UK LEADERSHIP.

Ahead of the UK General Election, four major political parties adopted REDRESS-backed commitments on consular assistance, with Labour pledging to introduce a new right to consular assistance in cases of human rights violations. Our recommendations were cited in a parliamentary debate, and we engaged MPs via the Survivor Advisory Group. In Australia, REDRESS' submissions shaped a Senate report on hostage-taking. We also informed the findings of a report by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture recognising State hostage-taking as a form of torture and advocating the use of Magnitsky sanctions to advance accountability and deter hostage-taking by States. On the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, REDRESS amplified survivor voices through a campaign urging the UK to prioritise anti-torture measures and survivors' voices in shaping government policy. Following our Global Britain, Global Justice report, Baroness Kennedy and Lord Alton introduced amendments to the International Criminal Court Act 2001 in the House of Lords that would allow the prosecution of non-citizens and non-residents who are present in the UK and are suspected of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

UPHOLDING JUSTICE IN HOSTILE TIMES

By Alejandra Vicente, Head of Law

REDRESS celebrated important legal victories this year, even as human rights NGOs faced funding cuts and a global crackdown on civil society. Through this work, REDRESS helped secure justice and promoted survivors' rights, achieving impact beyond individual cases.

In Nigeria, three peaceful protesters who were shot at by security forces at the Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos during the 2020 #EndSARs demonstrations against police brutality obtained an important ruling by the ECOWAS Court that highlighted deep-seated issues of police violence and impunity.

The case, brought by a coalition of civil society organisations and supported by REDRESS, found that Nigeria had used disproportionate force and that the victims suffered torture when live rounds were fired into the crowd, causing extreme fear and anxiety. The Nigerian government was ordered to compensate the three survivors and investigate the human rights abuses.

In Sudan, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights issued three landmark decisions in favour of REDRESS clients. One ruling went beyond individual justice, calling for systemic reforms, including the abolition of Sudan's blanket immunity laws. In another case, Sudan was found responsible for widespread atrocities against the Nuba people.



© Johal Skully/Alamy. British human rights activist Jagtar Singh Johal has been imprisoned in India for eight years.

In the UK, we helped a client bring a complaint against the UK security services for their alleged complicity in his torture, which led to a groundbreaking ruling that made clear that the intelligence services must not play any active role in encouraging or facilitating torture by foreign states.

In India, British human rights activist Jagtar Singh Johal, who has been detained for eight years, was acquitted in one of the cases against him after a court ruled the prosecution lacked credible evidence. Yet, our client remains imprisoned, facing eight more cases, based on the same alleged "confession" extracted under torture.

We have urged the UK government to intensify pressure on India for his release, most recently coordinating a letter from former victims of arbitrary detention to Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who raised Jagtar's case during his October visit to India.

These cases remind us why our work must continue: to stand with torture survivors, to demand justice, and to help build a world where dignity and humanity triumph over cruelty.



MAKING CONSULAR PROTECTION

A LEGAL RIGHT FOR BRITONS ABROAD

By Chris Esdaile, Senior Legal Advisor

Around 5,000 Britons are arrested abroad each year, and 186 were tortured or ill-treated in 2024 alone. Cases like those of our clients Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Nicholas Tuffney show how important is for the UK's response to be consistent and robust.

When Nazanin was unjustly detained in Iran, her husband Richard Ratcliffe fought for years to bring her home, even going on hunger strike outside the Foreign Office to force the UK Government to act. *"Families shouldn't have to go on hunger strike to get the Government to do something in cases of torture and unfair imprisonment,"* he said. *"A legal right to consular assistance would have made such a difference."*

After Nicholas Tuffney was detained in Panama on charges he always denied, which were later dropped, the Parliamentary Ombudsman found that Embassy staff did not act quickly or adequately to help when he reported being mistreated or raised other welfare concerns.

For British nationals detained abroad, consular assistance can be a lifeline, often the only link between them, their families, and the outside world. Yet in the UK, this crucial protection remains discretionary, not a legal right.

REDRESS, together with survivors and families, has long argued that it's time to move from discretion to duty. A legal right to consular assistance would protect the most vulnerable and give families certainty and accountability when things go wrong.



© Free Nazanin Campaign. Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

This year there were signs of progress. Ahead of the General Election, all major parties pledged to reform consular assistance, with Labour committing to *"strengthen support for British nationals abroad"* through *"a new right to consular assistance in cases of human rights violations."* Following the election, the Government promised to appoint a Special Envoy for Complex Consular Detentions.

Families shouldn't have to go on hunger strike to get the Government to do something in cases of torture and unfair imprisonment"

Richard Ratcliffe, Free Nazanin Campaign

REDRESS continues to urge the UK Government to move consular assistance into a legislative footing. Last year, we published a briefing, designed to help shape a legal right to consular assistance in the UK. It was developed with survivors, families, and legal experts, and endorsed by the Free Nazanin Campaign, Hostage International, Prisoners Abroad and British Rights Abroad Group.

We also published a comparative study of 28 States, which showed that nearly half already guarantee a strong, enforceable legal right to consular assistance.

The UK must do the same.

REPARATION

WE DELIVER REMEDIES AND REPARATION FOR SURVIVORS



© CVWN. Training programme delivered by our partners CVWN in Nepal to build the capacity of women affected by the conflict in transitional justice.

REDRESS has promoted the practical delivery of reparation for survivors, used Magnitsky sanctions as a form of interim reparative measures, and encouraged the financing of reparation through the repurposing of fines and assets.

ENHANCING THE PRACTICE OF REPARATION.

REDRESS advanced the practice of reparation through policy engagement, publications, and survivor-centred advocacy. Our [briefing paper](#) on the ICC's reparations order in the Dominic Ongwen case informed the Trust Fund for Victims' [Draft Implementation Plan](#) for reparations in Uganda, prompting it to incorporate elements of survivor participation. We published a multilingual [Practice Note on Claiming and Implementing Reparation for Torture Survivors](#), and another [Practice Note on Compensation](#), and convened roundtables in Uganda to support the practical implementation of the Ongwen reparation order. We also [supported](#) the UN CEDAW Committee's examination of barriers to reparation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, and our [submission](#) to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture contributed to her report on sexual torture, presented to the UN General Assembly, which acknowledge survivors as rights-holders.

PROMOTING SANCTIONS AS A FORM OF INTERIM REPARATION.

REDRESS continued to promote the use of targeted sanctions to advance accountability and serve as a form of interim reparation for survivors. Following a [Westminster Hall debate](#) in the UK Parliament—prompted by REDRESS—on countering Iran's illicit activities in the UK, UK government ministers committed to referring UK Iran sanctions breaches by banks to the Financial Conduct Authority. Following REDRESS submissions,

the US and EU sanctioned senior Sudanese officials, and the UK imposed [sanctions on Isabel dos Santos](#), the daughter of Angola's former president, in support of anti-corruption efforts in Angola. We sought [sanctions against Eritrean officials](#) for torture and forced labour in Eritrea and the northern Tigray region. Following our submission of a list of 66 individuals involved in serious human rights violations in Georgia, during the 2024 elections, the UK imposed Magnitsky sanctions against six Georgian officials.

PROVING THAT ASSETS CAN DELIVER REPARATION.

In September 2024, REDRESS published a first-of-its-kind report on [Financial Accountability at the International Criminal Court](#), exploring how the ICC's asset recovery mechanisms can be used to deliver reparations to survivors of international crimes. We advocated for the UK National Crime Agency to repurpose some of the £783,827 recovered from Russian oligarch [Petr Aven](#) under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. The Home Secretary and the Home Secretary and Sanctions Minister subsequently confirmed they are considering our proposal. We also called on the UK to allocate £50 million in fines and proceeds of confiscated assets toward reparation for survivors in Ukraine, and advocated for the UK to repurpose some of the proceeds from the £2.4 billion sale of [Chelsea Football Club](#) as reparation. In addition, we encouraged the UK Government to explore repurposing the assets of former Syrian military officer and politician Rifat al-Assad for survivors in Syria.

FROM HARM TO HEALING

© REDRESS. Ceremony of apology in London for the family of the late Leopoldo García. From left to right: Ximena Fuentes (Ambassador of Chile to the UK); Chris Esdaile (REDRESS Senior Legal Advisor); Jake Illanes (grandson); Eilena Illanes (great-granddaughter); Francisca García and Gloria Blaskett (daughters); and Daniela Quintanilla (Chile's Undersecretary of Human Rights).



By Lyra Nightingale, Senior Legal Advisor

Every survivor of torture has the right to reparation, a recognition that the harm they have suffered must, as far as possible, be repaired. Reparation can take many forms: compensation, rehabilitation, public apologies, or guarantees that such abuses will never happen again. At its heart, it is about restoring the dignity of those who have endured the unimaginable.

For REDRESS, this right is not just a principle on paper: it is a commitment. Through litigation and advocacy, we work to turn legal victories into real change. This year, the European Court of Human Rights awarded €110,000 in compensation to survivors in two REDRESS cases from Turkey and Lithuania, recognising the suffering endured by victims of torture.

In London, the Chilean Government offered a public apology to the family of the late Leopoldo García Lucero, tortured under the Pinochet regime and exiled to the UK half a century ago. His family finally heard what every survivor deserves to hear: "We are sorry."

But justice often takes a long time. Even when courts order reparations, survivors can wait years for them to be delivered. That's why REDRESS works side by side with national partners to make reparation real. In Kenya, we joined forces with partners and survivors, using advocacy and legal

action, to secure historic reparation payments to four survivors of the 2007 post-election violence, after a 13-year legal battle. We also promoted the implementation of reparation decisions for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Chad, the DRC, and Nepal.

In parallel, REDRESS continues to champion innovative approaches to reparation, including the use of Magnitsky sanctions to hold perpetrators of torture accountable. These have been applied in cases involving attacks on protesters in Georgia, corruption in Angola, and human rights violations in Iran and Sudan.

We have also challenged the financial impunity of high-profile perpetrators by seeking to repurpose frozen or confiscated assets for victims. In 2024 alone, UK authorities collected around £50 million partly related to breaches of Russia sanctions.

REDRESS has urged that these funds, and the £2.5 billion frozen from the sale of Chelsea FC, be used to support survivors of human rights violations in Ukraine.

DISSENT

WE CHALLENGE TORTURE USED TO SUPPRESS ACTIVISM AND PROTEST

© B Mathur/Reuters. Authorities used batons, water cannons, and tear gas to disperse demonstrators during a protest in New Delhi against corruption and rising food prices.



REDRESS achieved tangible results in advancing justice and reparation for survivors of torture related to dissent, including protesters, human rights defenders, and journalists. This work is part of the United Against Torture Consortium.

RAISING THE ALARM AT THE UN.

In June 2024, REDRESS and its partners in the United Against Torture Consortium led a UN campaign to raise awareness about the use of torture to suppress dissent, particularly during protests. We engaged UN experts and raised the case of British activist Jagtar Singh Johal. Following these efforts, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture highlighted in her report to the UN General Assembly the growing use of torture by authorities during protests worldwide, especially around elections, and to silence political opposition.

SUPPORTING LANDMARK ACCOUNTABILITY CASES.

In July 2024, the ECOWAS Court issued a major ruling against Nigeria over the Lekki toll gate massacre, finding violations of the prohibition of torture, the right to life, and freedom of expression. REDRESS supported civil society organisations litigating the case. We also intervened before the Court of Appeal in South Africa's first civil claim for torture related to prison protests.

PROTECTING PROTESTERS FROM POLICE BRUTALITY.

As part of the United Against Torture Consortium, REDRESS urged authorities in Kenya, Bangladesh, and Georgia to investigate allegations of police torture during protests and supported documentation efforts. We worked with the International Accountability Platform for Belarus to promote justice for the widespread torture during and after the 2020 Belarusian elections, including by advocating for States to join Lithuania's referral to the ICC requesting an investigation into alleged crimes against humanity committed by Belarusian authorities. We also worked with partners in Belarus to establish a survivor support group and supported justice and accountability efforts in Bangladesh, following the 2024 student-led protests.

PROTESTING WITHOUT FEAR

By Renata Politi, Legal Advisor

Peaceful protest is one of the clearest expressions of public voice. Yet for many around the world, taking to the streets means risking torture, sexual violence, or disappearance. This year, the escalating oppression of protesters has shown just how dangerous it has become for many to demand change. In response, we have sought to expose abuses, secure accountability, and protect protesters from torture and police brutality.

In June, REDRESS and partners in the [United Against Torture Consortium](#) published a [paper](#) showing that incidents of police brutality during protests are often overlooked as torture or ill-treatment, even though they frequently meet this threshold; particularly when law enforcement misuses equipment or employs inherently abusive methods. Following our advocacy, the [UN Special Rapporteur on torture](#) cited the increasing use of torture during protests and against political opposition in her report to the UN General Assembly.

Together with consortium partners, we urged authorities in [Kenya](#), [Bangladesh](#), and [Georgia](#) to investigate allegations of police torture during protests, while continuing to highlight the use of sexual and gender-based violence as a tool of repression.

A [groundbreaking report](#) on Latin America, released in September by partners and REDRESS,



© Khaled Al Hariri/Reuters. Syrian detainees arrested over participation in protests against former President Assad's regime.

was the first of its kind to document how State actors use forced nudity, rape, sexual harassment, invasive searches, and other abuses to punish and deter peaceful protesters. The findings reveal a disturbing regional pattern: sexual and gender-based violence is being systematically employed to suppress dissent.

In Belarus, we encouraged other States to support [Lithuania's referral](#) of the situation in Belarus to the International Criminal Court for the persecution and forced deportation of dissidents. The [International Accountability Platform for Belarus](#), which we co-lead, continues to document human rights violations and has collected testimonies from more than 3,200 victims and witnesses of state-led repression following the 2020 presidential elections.

Across all these efforts, REDRESS remains steadfast in protecting the right to protest; working to expose abuses, support survivors, and hold perpetrators accountable wherever torture and repression occur.

© Robin Hammond/Panos Pictures.
Nigerian citizens Ishmel and Gabriel
were slapped and beaten with electric
cables by a vigilante group that suspec-
ted them of being gay.



CHALLENGING DISCRIMINATION

WE CHALLENGE TORTURE AGAINST MARGINALISED AND EXCLUDED MINORITIES

We use strategic litigation and policy advocacy to promote justice and reparation for those who have been tortured because of who they are, with a focus on LGBTIQ+ and sexual and gender-based torture.

PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ANTI-LGBTIQ+ TORTURE.

REDRESS secured protection measures for our client Azul Rojas Marín, in Peru, following new threats allegedly made by the perpetrators of the original torture against her. We also urged the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to ensure that Peru fully implements the reparation measures previously ordered in her case. In South Africa, we supported a submission from partners on LGBTIQ+ killings, which informed a report by the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. The submission highlighted the need for guidelines on investigating anti-LGBTIQ+ violence, improved data collection, legislative reforms, and education. Additionally, we took on a new case involving LGBTIQ+ torture in Qatar and supported a partner's litigation concerning 'corrective' rape in South Africa.

IMPLEMENTING REPARATION FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED TORTURE.

REDRESS promoted the implementation of reparations for survivors of sexual and gender-based torture through a [new report](#) that showcases best practices, following a two-year project aimed at strengthening the capacity of survivors and civil society capacity in Nepal, the DRC, Kenya, Chad, and Uganda. The report highlights the need to enforce national judgments related to conflict-related sexual torture in several countries. In Kenya, we worked with partners to develop an implementation plan for a landmark legal case. REDRESS also supported survivors in Kenya (through capacity-building) and Nepal (through psychosocial support).

'IT HAS TO HAPPEN': CONFRONTING LGBTIQ+ TORTURE IN KENYA

**By Dianne Magbanua,
Communications Officer**

Being a queer human rights lawyer in Kenya comes with serious risks, yet Masafu Okwara refuses to be silenced. She sees her work as part of a legacy built by those who fought before her, determined that queer Kenyans should not be erased.

A lawyer at the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC), Masafu is among the recipients of REDRESS's Innovative Lawyers Awards, which recognise emerging human rights defenders using strategic litigation to challenge torture. Her decision to enter law was driven by the injustices she faced as a young queer Kenyan, which convinced her the legal system was the most powerful tool to fight back.

At NGLHRC, the first public legal aid clinic in Kenya for sexual and gender minorities, she confronts daily the violence and discrimination that LGBTIQ+ people endure. She recalls one case in which an 18-year-old lesbian in Nakuru was killed with a machete after leaving a club. Fear of discrimination kept witnesses from seeking help, but the organisation pushed for arrests despite resistance from authorities.

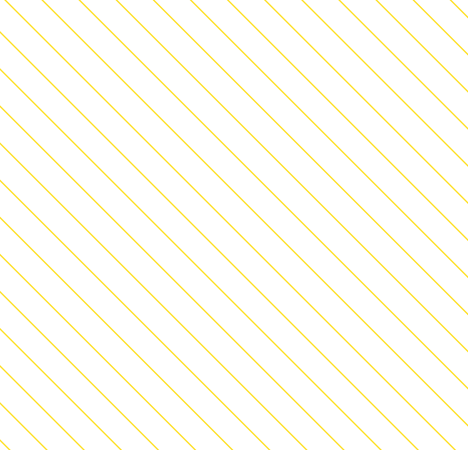


© REDRESS. Masafu Okwara is a lawyer at the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the first public legal aid clinic in Kenya for sexual and gender minorities.

One of REDRESS's key areas of work is using strategic litigation to challenge discriminatory torture used against groups including women, the LGBTIQ+ community, refugees, migrants, and those facing multiple forms of discrimination.

By recognising and supporting these trailblazing lawyers, REDRESS seeks to strengthen the global anti-torture movement and encourage more legal professionals to confront injustice and impunity. Last year, seven more lawyers from across the globe were honoured, including Emilija Švobaitė (Lithuania), Nina Barrouin (Brazil), Manushika Cooray (Sri Lanka), Edwin Makwati (Botswana/South Africa), Roberta Ruiz (Mexico), Laura Media (Spain), and Brenda Khwale (Malawi).

Reflecting on the future for LGBTIQ+ rights in Kenya, Masafu's tone is one of indomitable hope: *"The system has to change in our lifetime. I have a lot of hope in the system changing. I see marriage equality, even if it's in the long haul. I see a repeal of the criminalisation of homosexuality in the country. I see Kenya eventually becoming a safer home for LGBTIQ+ Kenyans – whether or not we live to see it. But it has to happen."*



SOLIDARITY

WE SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE ANTI-TORTURE MOVEMENT

© Utu Wetu. REDRESS partner Utu Wetu held a workshop in Kenya bringing together institutional partners and survivors to develop strategies for enforcing compensation.

REDRESS has supported over 100 Solidarity Partners in projects and cases challenging torture, strengthened the movement through financial partnerships, knowledge sharing, and organisational support, and promoted strategic litigation as a key tool against torture. We have also helped build a community of practice involving lawyers, academics, and activists working to advance reparation for survivors.

SUPPORTING THE ANTI-TORTURE MOVEMENT.

REDRESS supported over 10 organisations with financial and organisational support for projects, campaigns, legal workshops, and casework to combat torture. This financial support contributed to the release of four activists in Angola and protesters in Nigeria. We awarded four [Innovative Lawyers Awards](#) to partners in Mexico, Spain, Kenya, and Malawi, highlighting emerging anti-torture leaders. Under UATC, we promoted the 40th anniversary of the UN Convention Against Torture, with a multimedia campaign, [Voices for Human Dignity](#), featuring interviews with several survivors of torture, including former UN Special Rapporteur (and REDRESS Patron) Juan Méndez.

PROMOTING STRATEGIC LITIGATION AND REPARATION.

This year, REDRESS advanced the practice of strategic litigation through workshops, mentoring, and resources. We led two litigation workshops in Mexico with Laboratorio de Litigio Estructural, lawyers, and torture survivors, and supported members of the Ukraine and Yazidi Legal Networks through training in The Hague. We trained 40 human rights defenders from around the world on the use of sanctions mechanisms, and 100 UK immigration practitioners and human rights defenders on anti-torture legal practice. We also hosted two webinars on survivor participation in litigation. REDRESS published [Principles on a Survivor-Centred Approach](#), a [new casebook](#) discussing the strategic features of landmark torture cases and released a Spanish edition of our [Practice Note on Holistic Strategic Litigation against Torture](#). Through our [Just Reparation](#) bulletin, we connected four thousand reparation practitioners worldwide, sharing updates in English, Spanish, French and Ukrainian.

HOLDING THE LINE AGAINST TORTURE

By Andrew Lane, Legal Assistant

In October 2020, thousands of Nigerians protested the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, a police unit notorious for torture, extortion, and killings. The government responded with a harsh crackdown, arresting many and detaining them without charge.

Taiwo Dosunmu, a videographer, went to a police station to clarify that he had not participated in the protests. Instead, he was imprisoned without trial at Kirikiri Correctional Facility. For nearly four years, he endured overcrowding, poor sanitation, inadequate food and medical care, and complete isolation, conditions amounting to cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment. His case file disappeared, charges were inconsistent, and authorities offered no legal basis for his detention.

In January 2024, the [Citizens' Gavel Foundation for Social Justice](#), a Nigerian legal advocacy NGO, took up his case. Despite obstruction from officials, Gavel launched a strategic litigation plan, challenging his treatment, exposing procedural violations, and reinforcing Nigeria's obligations under the Anti-Torture Act and international law. Their motion to dismiss for lack of diligent prosecution succeeded, securing Taiwo's release.

A financial partnership with REDRESS, funded through the EU's United Against Torture initiative, made this possible. It [enabled Citizens' Gavel](#) to provide legal representation, address systemic failings, and restore Taiwo's freedom, sending a powerful message of hope to others still in detention. His story shows how even modest, timely support can protect lives, restore dignity, and spark broader reform. With continued backing, local partners like Gavel can turn justice from a possibility into an unstoppable reality.



© Kaizenify (CC BY-SA 4.0). #EndSARS protests in Nigeria, in 2020, demanding accountability for police brutality.

Through our [Solidarity](#) programme and networks like the [United Against Torture Consortium](#) and the [Global Initiative Against Impunity](#), we are able to provide financial and organisational support to organisations around the world, build capacity, and amplify collective impact.

We also foster a global community of lawyers, academics, and activists advancing justice and reparation. Last year alone, we trained human rights defenders on sanctions mechanisms, UK immigration practitioners on anti-torture law, and human rights defenders on freedom of religion or belief; hosted webinars on survivor participation; published a [casebook](#) of strategic cases against torture; and connected over 4,000 reparation practitioners through our [Just Reparation](#) bulletin.

Taiwo's victory is a reminder: partnership, solidarity, and shared knowledge turn individual cases into lasting progress toward a world free from torture.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Between June 2024 and May 2025:



We provided financial and organisational support to 16 civil society organisations across 13 countries for projects, campaigns, litigation workshops, and cases against torture.



We empowered 6 innovative anti-torture lawyers by providing financial support for their work and connecting them to a wider network.



We published 6 reports that shared critical knowledge on strategic litigation, reaching over 140,000 people.



We trained 40 human rights defenders to strengthen their use of sanctions mechanisms.



We trained 100 immigration practitioners and human rights defenders in anti-torture legal practice.

We connected more than 4,000 reparation practitioners through our [Just Reparation](#) bulletin.

COMMUNICATIONS

REDRESS's external profile continued to grow this year, with high profile campaigns and media interviews reaching a broad audience.

Through traditional and social media, we put the spotlight on the increasing use of torture by authoritarian regimes around the world to silence dissent; the links between torture and hostage-taking; the arbitrary nature of consular protection offered to British citizens; and the potential to use proceeds from sanctions and breaches of sanctions to fund reparations for survivors.

In line with our survivor-centred approach, members of the Survivor Advisory Group co-created communication and media messages for several campaigns in the UK. Our communication materials also featured interviews and first-hand commentary from survivors.

Edward Lucas discussed the UK Government's inaction in repurposing frozen Russian assets and fines from sanctions breaches into reparations for victims in Ukraine.

19 October 2023 THE  TIMES

Lyra Nightingale made the case for repurposing the proceeds from the sale of Chelsea FC as reparations for survivors in Ukraine, as promised.

3 March 2025

BBC
FOUR

Natalia Kubesch examined why the UK is failing to recoup ill-gotten gains linked to the Syrian regime.

1 April 2024

 JUST
SECURITY

Chris Esdaile argued that 10 years after the publication of a US congressional report on the use of torture by the CIA after 9/11, victims deserve to know the full truth.

16 December 2024

 ALJAZEERA

William Barnes wrote about why £2.5 billion from the Chelsea FC sale has still not been handed to victims of the war in Ukraine, three years after a promise was made to do so.

16 December 2024

 INDEPENDENT

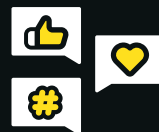
Despite leaving Twitter in January 2025, **our followers increased by 20%** on our other platforms, and engagement levels remained high.

+3,900
new followers
on social media,
an increase of 20%



+450,000
people reached
through **48 campaigns**
on social media

+ 28,000
engagements



PUBLICATIONS

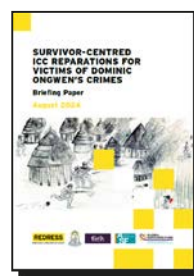
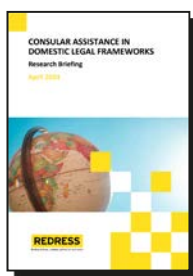
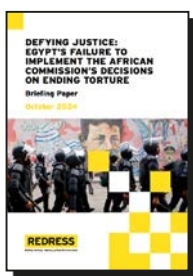
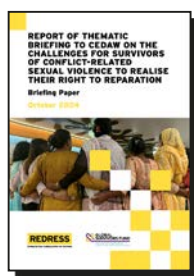
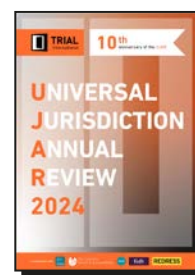
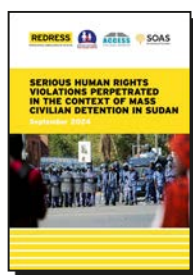
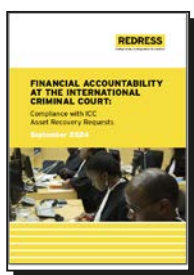


To see all our publications, visit:
redress.org/resources/publications

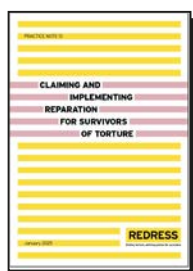
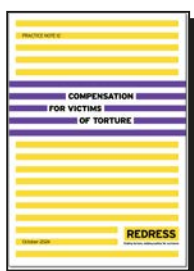
During the year, REDRESS published eight major reports and more than 20 briefing papers to advance our policy advocacy on issues related to torture. Some of these publications were developed jointly with partners and produced in several languages.

We also published practice materials to share with practitioners as part of our efforts to support the global movement against torture, including two practice notes and two specialised newsletters: *Just Reparation* and the *Targeted Sanctions Quarterly Update*.

REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS



PRACTICE



OUR IMPACT, THANKS TO YOU

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, REDRESS has been able to sustain and grow our work to achieve justice and reparation for survivors of torture. Continued funding from the **European Union, Global Survivors Fund, the International Accountability Platform for Belarus, Joffe Trust, John Armitage Charitable Trust, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Justice Together, The David and Ruth Lewis Family Foundation, Linklaters, Oak Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Souter Charitable Trust**, and the **Wellspring Philanthropic Fund** has been instrumental to our work during this period.

REDRESS would also like to thank the interns and volunteers from many countries, who have contributed substantially to our work: **Anisha Dhungana, Madison Simons, Antonio Escobar, Becky Gardner, Rosin Pillar, Behnam Youssefian, Leonor Carron-Desrosiers, Anna Spivack, Dorothea Oyetunde, and Catherine Barley**. In addition, we are grateful to our Legal Fellows: Alice Chan, Ana Cutts Dougherty, Amina Fahmy, Mira Naseer, Jacob Palmer, Surbhi Sachdeva, Isabelle Terranova, Emily Truluck, and David Zuther.

We would also like to thank the numerous law firms who have supported our work over the year, including **A&O Shearman, Bowmans (South Africa), Clifford Chance, Dentons, DLA Piper, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Gibson Dunn, Matrix Chambers, Hickman & Rose, Hogan Lovells, Houthoff, Doughty Street Chambers, Latham & Watkins, Leigh Day, Linklaters, Blackstone Chambers, Garden Court Chambers, Three Crowns, White & Case, Twenty Essex, Debevoise & Plimpton, Fragomen UK and Fragomen Netherlands**.

WHO WE ARE

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Peace Amito

Programme Manager

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Anoushka Canagarettna

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(to December 2024)

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Chris Esdaile

Senior Legal Advisor

Joss Gillespie

Communications Assistant
(to December 2025 in the UK)

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Administrative Assistant
(to January 2025)

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Consultant Legal Officer
(to December 2024)

Natalia Kubesch

Legal Officer

Andrew Lane

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Caitlan Lloyd

Legal Officer

Natalie Lucas

Legal Officer (to August 2024)

Oliver John MacDonald

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Dianne Magbanua

Communications
and Digital Assistant

Camila Marin Restrepo

Communities Officer

Fiona McKay

Consultant Legal Advisor

Sam Murphy

Finance Assistant (to April 2025)

Lyra Nightingale

Legal Advisor (from June 2024)

Blánaid Ní Chearnaigh

Legal Officer (to May 2025)

Letizia Paoloni

Operations Manager

Róisín Pillay

Consultant Legal Advisor
(to July 2024)

Renata Politi

Legal Advisor

Eva Sanchis

Head of Communications

Grace Shepherd

Administrative Assistant
(from January 2025)

Rupert Skilbeck

Director and Company Secretary

Mark Tomlinson

Finance Officer

Samina Yaqub

Head of Operations

REDRESS NEDERLAND STAFF

Julie Bardèche

Senior Legal Advisor

Joss Gillespie

Communications Assistant
(from January 2025 in the NL)

Gosia Marska

Administrative & Operations
Assistant (to November 2024)

Alejandro Rodríguez Díaz

Legal Officer

Katya Ravinskaya

Legal Officer

Alejandra Vicente

Head of Law

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CC, GOQ

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Dr Inge Genefke MD, D.M.Sc.h.c.

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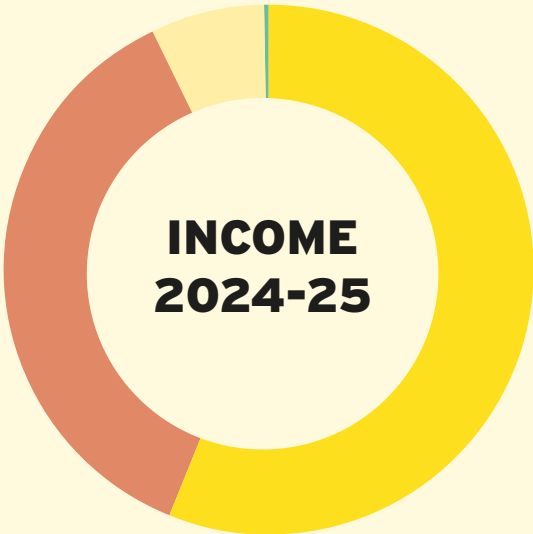
Professor Manfred Nowak

The Rt Rev Richard D Harries of Pentregarth

Lilianne Ploumen

John Simpson CBE

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

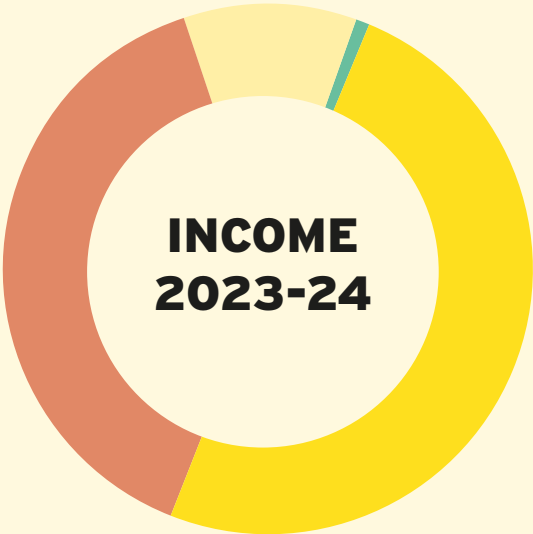


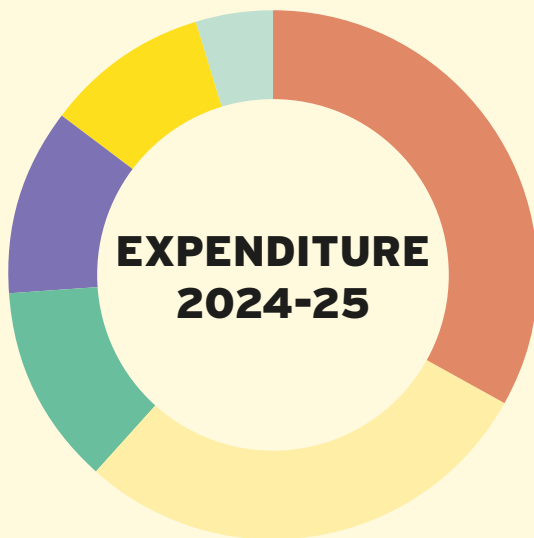
Charitable activities	£864,383
Donations and Legacies	£1,322,590
Donated services	£163,809
Investment income	£22,393

TOTAL **£2,373,175**

Charitable activities	£897,871
Donations and Legacies	£703,045
Donated services	£191,501
Investment income	£11,637

TOTAL **£1,804,054**



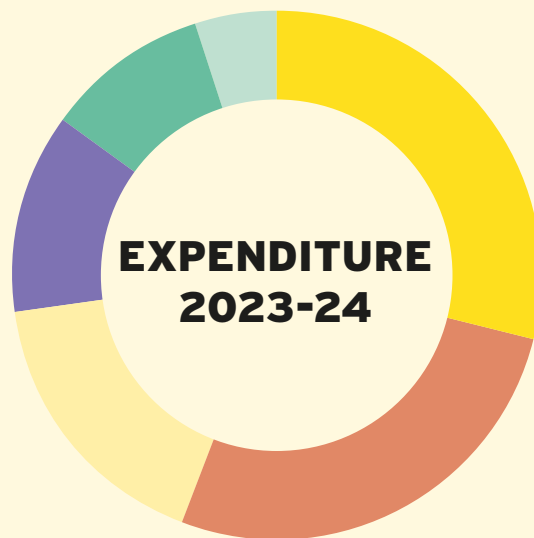


Justice	£810,548
Dissent	£700,517
Solidarity	£300,723
Discrimination	£281,099
Reparation	£241,814
Raising funds	£113,951

TOTAL £2,448,652

Reparation	£668,183
Justice	£618,973
Dissent	£383,570
Discrimination	£280,338
Solidarity	£242,408
Raising funds	£120,829

TOTAL £2,314,301



* The financial results are for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and the previous financial year.



I would like to obtain justice in my case to set a precedent, so that many other victims can also seek justice. There are too many human rights abuses in Mexico, and we need to shed light on all of them. I also want to draw international attention to the threats to freedom of speech in Mexico."

Oliver Acuña, Mexican journalist

HELP MAKE JUSTICE POSSIBLE

© Dianne Magbanua/REDRESS. Oliver Acuña, with his wife Karina in a London park, is a Mexican journalist who was tortured and imprisoned for exposing corruption. REDRESS has taken his case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.



For over 30 years, REDRESS has stood alongside survivors of torture, working to secure justice, reparation, and lasting change.

Many survivors have been targeted because of who they are or what they stand for. Bringing a range of lived experiences to our work, their advice and commitment inspire our global movement for justice and human rights.

Our vision is a world without torture, where every person can live in safety and dignity. Thanks to the commitment of our supporters, this vision comes closer to reality every day.

By supporting REDRESS, you help open the doors to justice for survivors. Together, we bring cases before national and international courts, hold perpetrators accountable, and push for laws and policies that protect people at risk. Most importantly, you help survivors to access the legal and psychosocial support they need to rebuild their lives.

This work takes time and persistence, but your commitment to this cause makes it possible to see each case through for as long as it takes. It also allows us to stand with courageous partners around the world who are leading change, often in the most challenging environments. Together, we strengthen a global movement that amplifies survivors' voices, promotes accountability, and works towards preventing future abuses.

Every act of support – every donation, every message shared, every voice raised – serves to build a world rooted in justice, compassion, and hope.



Join us in realising a
world without torture
redress.org/donate



Annual Review
2025



REDRESS

Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

