

Phan Foundation

Annual Report and Accounts 2019-2020

The Phan Foundation was founded by the four children of Padoh Mahn Sha, the General Secretary of the Karen National Union, and Nant Kyin Shwe, in their memory.

The Phan Foundation is a Charitable Incorporation Organisation, registered charity number 1154658. Our governing document is the constitution of the Phan Foundation.

Charitable objects

- (1) TO PREVENT OR RELIEVE POVERTY IN BURMA,**
- (2) TO PREVENT OR RELIEVE POVERTY (INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL NEEDS) OF REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS, MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS FROM BURMA.**
- (3) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF PEOPLE OF ALL AGES FROM BURMA.**
- (4) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SUBJECTS OF ETHNIC KAREN CULTURE, HISTORY AND TRADITIONS**
- (5) TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS (AS SET OUT IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUBSEQUENT UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS AND DECLARATIONS) AND TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA AND SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT.**

Board and advisors:

Trustees:

Nant Bwa Bwa Phan

Nant Zoya Phan

Mark Farmaner

Stephen Bates

No new trustees were appointed during this reporting period

Advisors:

Saw Say Say Phan

Slone Phan

Benedict Rogers

Charity registration number: 1154658

Registered Office:

110 The Bon Marche Centre, 241-251 Ferndale Road London, SW9 8BJ

Bankers:

The Co-operative Bank

1 Balloon St

Manchester

M60 4EP

Grants made in 2019 – 2020

Our partners, their impact and achievements

Karen Peace Support Network

The Karen Peace Support Network (KPSN) is a coalition of more than 20 ethnic Karen civil society organisations seeking to promote the voices of communities from conflict zones in the current 'peace process' in Burma.

The Phan Foundation provided funding of £3,650 for the organisation of consultation meetings so that conflict affected communities in remote areas can ensure their voices are heard and represented. Following these consultations KPSN was able to articulate their concerns directly to governments and donors to the 'peace process'.

Karen Community Association UK

The Karen Community Association UK (KCA-UK) was founded by Karen refugees from Burma. It works to promote the interests of the Karen Community in the UK, engages in advocacy for the promotion of human rights in Burma, and promotes Karen cultures and the learning of Karen history.

The Phan Foundation provided KCA-UK with £300 for the provision of textbooks and educational materials, and the provision of meals, for a summer school teaching the children of refugees the Karen language and Karen history. 40 children of refugees attended the classes, keeping Karen culture, language and history alive in new generations of Karen children in the UK.

Karen Student Network Group

The Karen Student Network Group (KSNG) was founded by young Karen people in Burma and refugees in Thailand. It engages in advocacy regarding the situation of young Karen refugees, promotes access to education for Karen children and young people, and publishes education materials in the Karen language, teaching young people about Karen history, culture and their rights, as well as information on health issues.

The Phan Foundation provided a grant of £1,469.94 to KSNG for the publication of a student magazine distributed to young refugees in camps on the Thailand Burma border. The magazine covered issues on Karen history and culture, human rights, and on access to further education.

The Phan Foundation also provided KSNG with grant of £1,140 for a youth exchange training programme. The programme enabled 121 participants to coming together from different parts of the country to share experiences and challenges they face and learn about ways to address them, as well as learning about Karen culture and history, and building networks for youth to work together to share experiences and solutions in the future.

Karen Environmental and Social Action Network

The Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN) is a highly respected organisation established by Karen Refugees in Thailand. It works to protect the environment, provide education, promote peace, and protect and promote the rights of the Karen people.

The Phan Foundation provided KESAN with a grant of £1,320 to cover basic living costs for students at a boarding school. The school provides further education for young people from conflict zones where access to higher level education is non-existent. The grant covers the costs of essentials such as food and toiletries for hygiene.

The Phan Foundation also provided KESAN with a grant of £1,202 for an exhibition in Yangon about the Salween Peace Park. The Salween Peace Park is an award winning initiative by local communities in a conflict zone in Karen State who have come together to try to address the multiple challenges their community and their environment face, from conflict and poverty to environmental destruction and human rights violations.

The exhibition helped to raise awareness among the general population of Burma about the situation these communities face and the solutions they are proposing. It was highly successful and was visited by Ambassadors and other diplomats, and received widespread media coverage.

A Karen community in Burma (Name withheld for their security)

The Phan Foundation provided a grant of £4,800 to a Karen community organisation which is working to preserve the West Pwo Karen language. Only around 200,000 people in the world still speak West Pwo Karen and the numbers are thought to be declining, especially among younger people. The grant from the Phan Foundation provides funding for teaching materials and teacher salaries, helping to preserve and promote this endangered language.

Karen Education and Culture Department

The Karen Education and Culture Department (KECD) provides an essential service to children and youth in areas not under central government control, ensuring they can receive an education.

The Phan Foundation provided a small grant of £1,000 towards teacher salaries. Low teacher salaries are a major impediment to retaining teachers long term.

The Phan Foundation also provided a grant of £1,512.80 for teacher training for teachers teaching in the S'gaw Karen Language.

Karen Women's Organisation

The Karen Women's Organisation (KWO) is an outstanding community organisation with more than 50,000 members. It provides a wide range of services to Karen communities in Burma and refugees in Thailand. These range from the provision of nurseries, women's education and empowerment

programmes, development and humanitarian aid, refugee rights, and human rights research and advocacy.

The Phan Foundation provided a grant of £7,474.59 to the KWO for the provision of emergency food aid to Internally Displaced People in Karen state Burma. Eh Htu Ta IDP camp has almost 3,000 residents, people who have fled attacks and human rights violations by the Burmese army. International donors stopped providing aid to these IDPs in 2017, despite it not being safe for them to return home, and despite it being impossible for them to be self-sustaining in the area where the camp is.

Pu Taw Memorial Junior College (Further Studies Programme), Mae La Refugee Camp, Thailand

Following years of international donors cutting aid to refugees in Thailand, Pu Taw Memorial Junior College is the last remaining educational facility providing further education to refugees living in camps in Thailand, and it is struggling financially. This lack of further education opportunities has a devastating impact on the future of young people and for the community as a whole in being able to have educated people who can help address the multiple challenges this refugee community faces. It is a terrible irony that denial of education was a deliberate tactic of the Burmese military in its attempts to Burmanise the Karen population of Burma, and that even though there is relative safety in the refugee camps in Thailand, higher education is still largely denied to Karen refugees.

Pu Taw Memorial College provides education for people between the ages of 16 and 30.

The Phan Foundation provided a grant of £5,042.67 towards the salaries of teachers at the college.

Youth Community Group Irrawaddy Delta (Name withheld for security reasons)

The Phan Foundation provided an emergency grant of £2,515 to a respected youth community group in the Irrawaddy Delta which was working within the community on education for the prevention of COVID-19, in the absence of official government education and support.

Our Charitable Objectives

These grants all further the charitable objectives of the Phan Foundation and are undertaken for the public benefit of these objectives. We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Grant-making approach and policy

The founders of the Phan Foundation, being from the ethnic State of Karen State Burma, have particular experience, knowledge and expertise in both the needs of the people, and the organisations which are providing effective assistance to them.

Based on this experience, the Phan Foundation seeks to apply principles in grant making which many charities working in the same area, in particular larger charities, do not apply. We seek to make long term commitments to the work of our grantees so that they have a more secure income, and are therefore able to be more efficient and effective in implementing projects and assisting beneficiaries. We are also willing to consider making smaller grants to local community organisations in remote areas which can make a significant difference to those local communities.

Grants can be considered based on applications made to the Phan Foundation, or on the recommendation of Trustees.

Financial review and accounts:

Phan Foundation Annual Account Apr 2019 - Mar 2020

Phan Foundation Annual Accounts Apr 2019 - Mar 2020				
No.	Descriptions	Money Out £	Money in £	Balance £
1	Grants	31,427.00		
2	Travel expenses	-		
3	Transfer Fees	159.50		
4	Website Development	1,308.60		
5	Others	300.36		
6	Opening Balance			13,110.93
7	Standing Order		336.00	
8	General donation		100.00	
9	Donation from Paypal		572.19	
10	Grants		20,579.98	
11	Others		22.67	
	Total	33,195.46	21,610.84	1,526.31

The trustees approved the accounts on 14th August 2020.

The income that the Phan Foundation received during this reporting period was from individual donations and one grant.

Phan Foundation Annual Account Apr 2019 - Mar 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zoya Phan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Zoya Phan
Trustee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Farmaner', with a cursive script.

Mark Farmaner
Trustee