



NEW COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

THE OXFORD INSTITUTE OF CHARITY



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AN INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Institute of Charity (OIC) is a major collaboration between UK think-tank Charity Futures, and New College, Oxford University.

Founded in 1379, New College is one of Oxford's oldest colleges, and will be the permanent home for the OIC from 2022, in a custom-built Tower in the Quad.

WHY CHARITY?

Charity is at the core of our humanity, and is a concept that transcends race, religion and geography. But the sector is under-researched and widely misunderstood.

It includes the aid and support given in response to natural disasters and crises at home and abroad, and the money, time and effort dedicated by support groups and service providers to those in need, the disadvantaged and vulnerable, whether they are people, animals or habitats.

It includes the money we give to fund, find and progress life-enhancing medical solutions to overcome disease, through to the provision of accessible healthcare for the world's poor.

It supports the provision of education for all and access to learning, and frequently the funds required for new buildings in universities, schools and religious institutions, for equipment and special grants.

Charities provide the homeless with homes and dignity, aim to prevent the many abuses in our world, lobby for and protect basic human rights, and offer assistance in times of need.

Indeed, the charity sector is one of the most important and influential in any modern society, and includes an army of unpaid volunteers working alongside full-time staff to help, fund-raise and campaign to make a positive difference in society.

Charities span all of these activities, elevating every aspect of life in today's more inclusive world.

THE UK CHARITY SECTOR

In the UK, the size of the charity sector is very significant.¹ The total income of all charities combined is about £48 billion, bigger than the Higher Education sector. The voluntary sector contributes approximately £15.3bn to UK GVA – more than the arts or agriculture. Charities fund almost half of all medical research in the UK, and 35% of the total voluntary sector workforce (880,000 paid employees) works in the social care subsector.

However, recent media attention has been critical, and has highlighted the urgent requirement for the deeper study of charities and their modus operandi so that they can become more effective.

The OIC will meet this need.

WHAT WILL THE OIC DO?

The OIC is inspired by the evident need to address the lack of information and analysis that will be essential to strengthen the sector, and reverse the trends towards lack of engagement, lack of funding, particularly by the wealthy, and lack of trust.

¹ <https://nfpsynergy.net/free-report/facts-and-figures-uk-charity-sector-2018>

It will work alongside other academic bodies and organisations, and become the focus for the undergraduate and post-graduate study of charity, and a resource for all.

The OIC will research and report how charities are governed and managed, and the problems they face.

And by creating a global network, the OIC will also foster the collaboration required to seed innovation and the development of tools to assist charities to make even greater impact.

We are aware of a number of university faculties that focus on philanthropy, fundraising and donor motivation. However, we believe this initiative to be the first studying charity and charities in any university in the world. As such the Institute will act as a beacon and focus of a network across the globe in encouraging research and the study of charity.

THE CORE AIMS OF THE INSTITUTE ARE TO:

- Deliver high-calibre academic research for the global charity community.
- Promote the importance of research, teaching and the study of charity at post-graduate and undergraduate level at the Institute itself and also by working with other universities and management colleges.
- Develop networks and foster links internationally.
- Digitise charity records to assist with wider research and study.
- Organise conferences and summer schools for UK and global academics, philanthropists, corporate donors and leaders of civil society.

The OIC is currently seeking a major donor or donors to provide the significant endowment required to underpin the ground-breaking new initiative.

We welcome your contribution to this important work.

Sir Stephen Bubb

Acting Director, Oxford Institute of Charity

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THE TOWER

We have already raised the capital cost of £2.5m for the new building which will house the Institute. Building works are due to begin circa end of 2019 and the tower due to be complete by the summer of 2022. We intend to be fully operational from start of academic year in October 2022.