

**Teresa Elwes,  
Grants Executive,  
The Bromley Trust**

**Grant-making 2011-2012:  
£700k**

The greatest source of pride for me is in the charities we support and their unstinting commitment to the lives of the most vulnerable. But I am also immensely proud of my uncle, Keith Bromley, who left the endowment. He specified overarching objectives, focused funding, and unrestricted funds where possible for long-term grant-making.

In the 10 years since I have been directing the Trust, we have funded many wonderful charities, and developed our focus areas by listening to grantees.

Among those I am proudest of I would include Redress – a charity that works to end torture and seek justice for survivors. We started funding in 1995, when its income was about £100,000. For the first 15 years we gave unrestricted funds until we felt it was stable and sustainable – then with an income of £1.3 million. But in an end-of-cycle interview in 2010, it became clear that in the Democratic Republic of the Congo almost all the referrals for litigation from partner charities were men. Women were considered ‘déjà perdu’, or ‘already lost’, and no amount of redress or justice would help bring them back into their communities. Like their CEO, I was deeply shocked, and suggested that we support a restricted project for Redress to undertake a gender audit of its work and the capacity needed to respond to the torture of women and girls across all programme areas.

In the three years of this funding, gender analysis has



*Teresa Elwes*

become firmly embedded throughout the work of the organisation, Redress has written a manual for commissioners and practitioners, gender-specific cases have increased, and work to refine international standard setting for gender-specific work is well under way. It has also enabled Redress to attract further grants, and encouraged other providers in the field to undertake similar gender analysis of their work and capacity.

Another success is Fair Trials International. We supported it for 10 years and helped it to grow from an income of £10,000 into the important human rights charity it is today, one which attracts the funding of larger foundations – it now has a turnover of £500,000.

Other significant grants include funding the Prison Reform Trust to produce the *Bromley Briefings* in memory of my uncle. In the last 10 years of his life he would send policy-makers and others his ‘naive notes’ on prison statistics, believing that if everyone knew the facts, reforming the prison system would be obvious. Since his death in 2003 the *Bromley Briefings* have been produced twice yearly and sent to over 2,000 people across the criminal justice sector, government and sentencers. Who knows how much having the latest information available has influenced legislation?

Above all, I am proudest of our involvement in collaborations

between funders. We were founding members of the Corston Independent Funders’ Coalition, a grouping of 22 grant-makers that made a significant difference to the way the *Corston Report* on women in the criminal justice sector was implemented by successive governments.

Currently, we are working with 14 other grant-makers in the Child Sexual Exploitation Funders’ Alliance to roll out a network of providers that will link, train and join up services to prevent child sexual exploitation and support survivors across England. We started a year ago and within three years expect to have 16 hub and spoke services covering most of England with a central evaluation stem and an ongoing learning station, all fully integrated with youth participation and the survivor’s voice.

In the spring we brought together a new group to look at trauma-informed practice and to create a systemic change in the way women at risk are treated. The Women@Risk programme consists of academics, voluntary and statutory sector providers, and grant-makers. We have set up a series of training and research events for service providers, custody staff, sentencers and policy-makers, and are embedding the work with the development of communities of practice to reduce self-harm and the re-traumatisation of women at risk.

In each of these collaborations we have listened to the work and suggestions of our grant-holders – the experts on the ground – and have learned from our fellow funders, fine-tuning our work to maximise our funds. I think my uncle would be proud.

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