



International
Association for
Democracy

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRACY TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

31 AUGUST 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

CHARITY CONTACT INFORMATION



International
Association for
Democracy

Charity's name: International Association for Democracy
Scottish Charity Number: SC052745
Address: 5 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh
Postcode: EH2 4AN

Email: info@iad.ngo
Website: <https://iad.ngo/>
Twitter: https://twitter.com/ia_democracy
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IADemocracy>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/iademocracy/>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ia-democracy/>
Threads: <https://www.threads.net/@iademocracy>

CHARITY TRUSTEES

Name of all charity trustees for the period, and the date they left if they were not in post for the whole year:

1. Loi Lam
1 August 2024 - 3 November 2024
2. Valeria Bortă
11 Aug 2023 - 12 Nov 2024
3. Oliver St. John
11 Aug 2023 - 17 Nov 2024
4. Anna Herca
1 July 2024 - 1 December 2024
5. Hermione Kent
Secretary, Partnerships and Engagement Lead
11 August 2023 – 07 April 2025
6. Charles Arthur Cooper
Co-Director
17 November 2024-present
7. Strade Cadillay
Co-Director
11 February 2024-present
8. Oriana Chirinos
Secretary
29 November 2024 – present
9. William Brown
Board member
11 December 2024 – present
10. Claire Fawcett
Board Member
27 November 2024 - 30 September 2025
11. Leonora Barclay
Board Member
28 November 2024 - 30 September 2025
12. Martyn Day
Board Member
11 December 2024 - present

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report:

1. Strade Cadillay
Co-Director & Treasurer
11 February 2024-present
2. Charles Arthur Cooper
Co-Director
17 November 2024-present
3. Oriana Chirinos
Secretary
29 November 2024 - present
4. William Brown
Board member

- 11 December 2024 - present
5. Martyn Day
Board Member
11 December 2024 - present

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

TYPE OF GOVERNING DOCUMENT

Constitution

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT

ELIGIBILITY

A person will not be eligible for election or appointment to the board if they are:

- (a) disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; or
- (b) an employee of the organisation.

INITIAL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The individuals who signed the charity trustee declaration forms which accompanied the application for incorporation of the organisation shall be deemed to have been appointed by the members as charity trustees with effect from the date of incorporation of the organisation.

APPOINTMENT/RETIRAL

The board may at any time appoint any person to be a charity trustee - by way of a resolution passed by majority vote at a board meeting.

Any proposed charity trustee shall undergo a three-month probationary period. The newly appointed charity trustee holds full voting rights, except for the confirmation vote on their position as a trustee. At the end of the probation period, the board shall hold a confirmation vote on the final appointment of the newly appointed charity trustee – by way of a resolution passed by majority vote at a board meeting. The newly appointed charity trustee cannot participate in this vote. If the newly appointed charity trustee is not confirmed by a majority of trustees, (s)he will no longer be a member of the board effective immediately. The newly appointed charity trustee can also be removed by a majority vote of the board at any point within the three-month probationary period.

At the conclusion of the first Annual General Meeting (AGM), one third (to the nearest round number) of the charity trustees shall retire from office; the question of which of them is to retire shall be determined by some random method.

At the conclusion of each AGM (other than the first):

- (a) any charity trustees appointed during the period since the preceding AGM (but excluding those re-appointed under clause 22 during that period) shall retire from office;
- (b) out of the remaining charity trustees, one third (to the nearest round number) shall retire from office.

The charity trustees to retire under paragraph (b) of clause 21 shall be those who have been longest in office since they were last appointed or reappointed; as between persons who were last appointed/re-appointed on the same date, the question of which of them is to retire shall be determined by some random method.

A charity trustee who retires from office under clause 20 or 21 at the conclusion of an AGM shall be eligible for re-appointment under clause 18 at the next board meeting.

A charity trustee vacating office at the conclusion of an AGM will be deemed to have been re-elected at the board meeting which next follows unless:

- (a) they advise the board that they do not wish to be re-appointed; or
- (b) a resolution for the re-appointment of that charity trustee was put to the board meeting and was not carried.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

CHARITABLE PURPOSES

The advancement of human rights by promoting and advancing around the globe:

- (a) democracy;
- (b) the rule of law; and
- (c) human rights.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO THESE OBJECTS

The International Association for Democracy (IAD) was created by a group of individuals from across Europe who were alarmed by the growing threats to democracy and the inadequate response from Western democratic nations. Driven to act by events such as the fall of Afghanistan's democratically elected government and Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, they saw that these situations highlighted the urgent need for stronger, coordinated international efforts to defend and promote democracy. In response, IAD campaigns for a world where democracy and freedom flourish, where people's voices are heard, elections are free and fair, the rule of law is upheld, and human rights are universally protected.

To achieve its charitable purpose, IAD has worked to raise public awareness about the importance of democracy, the rule of law and human rights and the threats they face. Our initiatives are aimed at a wide audience, including the people of Scotland, Europe, and the wider world. We also run various projects that focus on more specific groups of beneficiaries, ensuring targeted impact and support.

IAD'S WORK TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT DEMOCRACY

This is what we consider to be our core work. IAD focused on raising public awareness about the value of democracy and the threats it faces globally. We are active on Facebook, Threads, Instagram, X, LinkedIn and YouTube and have been publishing regular social media posts on topics relating to democracy. We also started creating engaging videos on topics relating to

democracy and have published opinion pieces relating to democratic issues throughout the globe. Our monthly newsletters connected us with an international readership, sparking conversations on democracy and human rights. Our work helped raise public awareness and understanding about the importance of democracy across the UK, the EU, and beyond.

IAD'S RESEARCH & LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

Last year, IAD conducted in-depth research on threats to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Ukraine, in particular as a result of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. We spent a significant amount of time conducting thorough research and preparing a policy brief on how the EU can better support democracy in Ukraine and how the EU can deter Russia from continuing its illegal invasion.

Following this, the focus this year has been on how Russia is evading EU and US sanctions, primarily through the use of its so-called "shadow fleet" of oil tankers, and how the EU, US, and their allies must intensify their efforts and take decisive action to counter these evolving threats. The policy brief offers key information on the scale and operations of this fleet, as well as the level of investment it receives from the Russian state and the revenue it generates. The brief goes on to offer a series of policy recommendations aimed at curbing the effectiveness of the shadow fleet and its ability to operate undeterred, including replacing LNG sourced from Russia with global LNG supply, lowering the oil price cap to \$30, which would decrease Russian oil-related revenues by 25% and requiring vessels in coalition waters to show proof of compliance with spill insurance requirements established in international conventions and IMO regulations.

With the completion of the policy brief, IAD shared the document with EU politicians and officials, requesting meetings to persuade them to adopt our proposed measures. These efforts aim to benefit Ukraine's democracy and national sovereignty by bringing EU awareness to this method of Russia's to escape the economic costs of their aggression. They also aim to benefit the international community, as strong, properly enforced sanctions make it clear to other authoritarian regimes that the illegal invasion and the attempt to overthrow the democratically elected government of another country will have serious economic consequences.

INTERNAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORK

While aiming to drive positive global change, we prioritised building strong internal capacity to support our mission. This year has been a year of transition, with our founders and original co-directors, Oliver St John and Valeria Bortă, both stepping down, and a largely new board of trustees being established at the end of 2024. Thanks to Oliver and Valeria's hard work and support, we were able to ensure a smooth and orderly transition. We also maintained a volunteer staff of approximately 50 people throughout the year. Throughout much of 2025, we worked to simplify our working procedures, ensuring faster pace in our work.

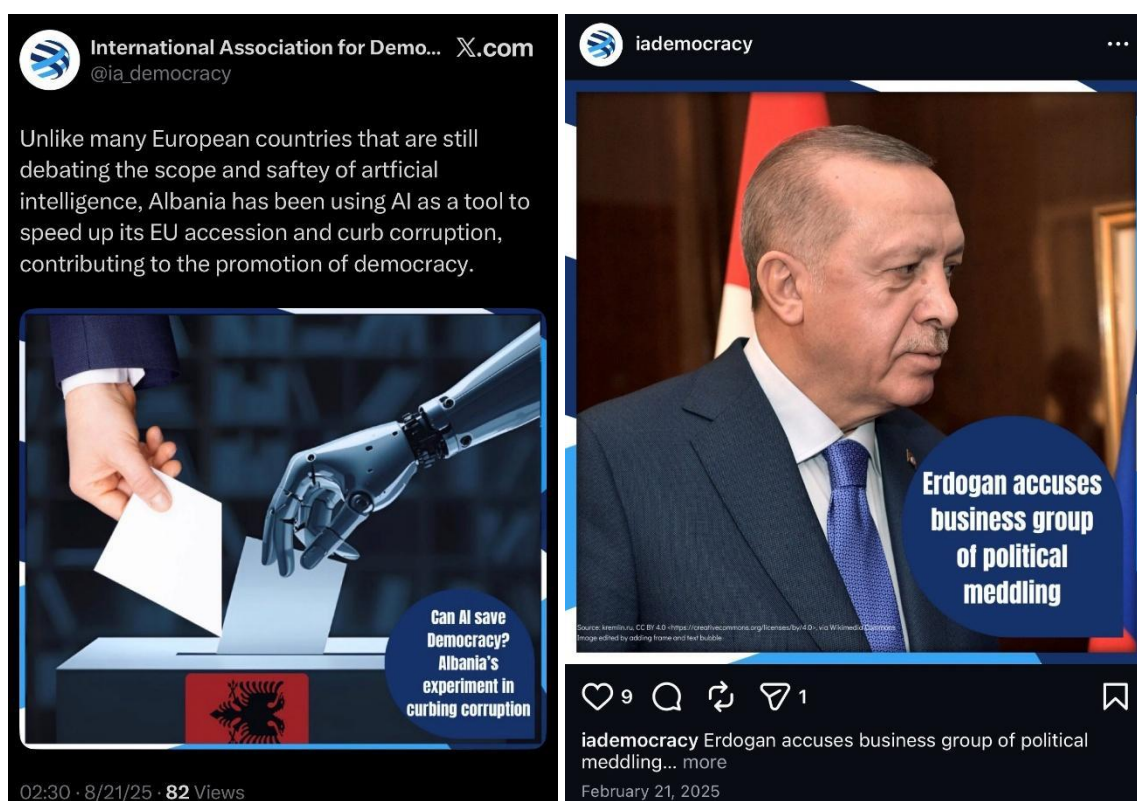
ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHARITY DURING THE FINANCIAL PERIOD

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

IAD's work has significantly raised public awareness of democracy and its value in today's world. Through targeted social media campaigns, impactful opinion pieces, and well-planned awareness initiatives, we reached diverse audiences across the globe, highlighting the opportunities democracy affords and the critical threats it currently faces.

By 2025, our social media presence grew to approximately 9k followers across all of IAD's social media platforms, allowing us to engage with an audience of thousands and bring timely attention to pressing democracy issues.





Additionally, we have published a variety of opinion pieces on our website, covering topics as diverse as political polarisation in the United States, post-election internet restrictions in Mozambique and Turkey's authoritarian drift.

American Democracy Threatened by Increasingly Dangerous Rhetoric from Politicians

December 9, 2024 • Charles Cooper, Co-Director



White House lawn by Daniel Schwen

Share this article

Increasingly aggressive rhetoric from America's leaders has led to the alienation of many Americans from their democratic system of government, leading many to embrace violence as an alternative, with 12% of Democrats and 28% of Republicans believing that violence may be necessary to resolve the country's issues. If America's democratic traditions are to be maintained, her leaders must reign in

[American Democracy Threatened by Increasingly Dangerous Rhetoric from Politicians'](#)

POST-ELECTION INTERNET RESTRICTIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE: SILENCING DEMOCRACY

March 3, 2025 • Carmona Polá, Public Relations Officer



Written by Carmona Polá,

Share this article

Mozambique's government has long faced criticism for its democratic shortcomings, particularly regarding transparency and accountability. From flawed electoral processes to a lack of open dialogue with citizens, the ruling party has often prioritized consolidating power over fostering trust in democratic institutions. These habits undermine the principles of democracy, leaving citizens disillusioned and raising

[Post-Election Internet Restrictions in Mozambique: Silencing Democracy](#)

Turkey's continued authoritarian drift

May 29, 2025 • Declan Sharp, Digital Media officer



Lack of institutional and international support for Turkey's protestors condemns the country to continue its authoritarian drift

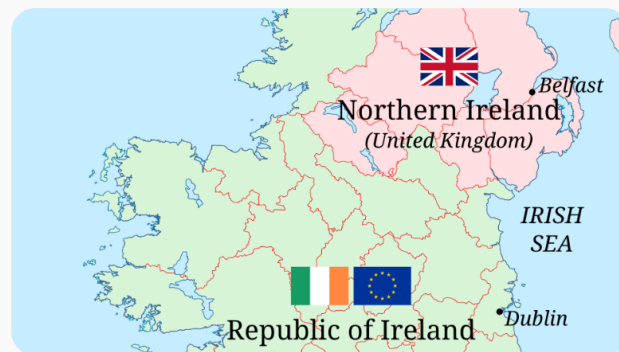
Share this article

After jailing his main political rival in future elections, opposition candidate [Ekrem İmamoğlu](#), critics fear that Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan ["seems to have crossed the Rubicon"](#). However, it is becoming increasingly clear that Erdoğan will be able to maintain his [competitive authoritarian regime](#) because limited pushback from the judiciary may allow him to tread a fine line of suppression without overtly destroying Turkey's legal and political norms. [Competitive authoritarianism](#) refers to regimes in

[Turkey's continued authoritarian drift](#)

Has Northern Ireland cracked the code for Democracy in a Deeply Divided Society?

June 23, 2025 • Claire Fawcett, Board Member of the International Association for Democracy (IAD)



Share this article

Northern Ireland has developed a model that is [hugely underestimated](#) by its citizens. It has managed to bring together two sides that lived in such a state of division, both politically and [physically](#), that they found themselves mired in a 30 year conflict which cost [3,720 people their lives](#). Although this number is a fraction of what

[Has Northern Ireland cracked the code for Democracy in a Deeply Divided Society?](#)

We have also prepared several explainer videos to explain concepts like political constitutions and the rule of law, and how the US government works.





What is Democracy?



International Association for Democracy
17 subscribers

Subscribe



0



Share

Ask

Save



These initiatives not only informed but motivated audiences to recognise the power and responsibility that come with voting, underscoring the role each person plays in supporting and upholding democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

Additionally, our [newsletters](#), which provide educational content on the topics of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, have continued to build an international community of subscribers, reaching 104 subscribers in various countries by August 2025 and fostering an ongoing dialogue on democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.



International
Association for
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February 2025

Here comes our February Newsletter.

Today, democratic principles are in great danger. Recent polls have shown that young people in the UK do not believe in democracy, and the Russian government continues in its efforts to undermine democracy through misinformation. That is why our organisation is called upon to defend and promote democracy with great concern and even greater strength.



International
Association for
Democracy

Newsletter of August 2025

Here comes our August Newsletter. August is a month full of stories about strength and change. We see it in the resilience of Indigenous communities, the hope and energy of young people, and the bravery of humanitarian workers on the front lines. Around the world, democracy is being tested, challenged, and reshaped in real time. This newsletter brings you those moments: raw, real, and worth paying attention to.

Important Day in History

The end of Euromaidan in Ukraine in 2014 and the transition of power to the protesters



Important days

International Day of Indigenous People - August 9th

August 9th marks the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, a date set aside to recognize the resilience and cultural wealth of more than 476 million Indigenous people across the globe. Despite speaking most of the world's 7,000 languages and carrying generations of knowledge about living in harmony with nature, Indigenous communities remain among the most marginalized and face persistent threats to their land, identity, and way of life, especially during this era shaped by rapid technological change. August 9th marks the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, a date set aside to recognize the resilience and cultural wealth of more than 476 million Indigenous people across the globe. Despite speaking most of the world's 7,000 languages and carrying generations...

Through these efforts, IAD has effectively raised awareness and sparked essential conversations, fostering a stronger, more informed commitment to democratic values, the rule of law and human rights around the world.

RESEARCH & LOBBYING

The policy brief we prepared on Russia's shadow fleet has been shared with EU politicians. These efforts aim to benefit Ukraine's democracy and national sovereignty by bringing EU awareness to this method of Russia's to escape the economic costs of their aggression. They also aim to benefit the international community, as strong, properly enforced sanctions make it clear to other authoritarian regimes that the illegal invasion and the attempt to overthrow the democratically elected government of another country will have serious economic consequences.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

STATEMENT OF THE CHARITY'S POLICY ON RESERVES

Our charity operates with a policy of holding £0 in reserves.

Due to the low frequency and modest scale of our expenditures, which only have to cover core functionality, such as web hosting and a P.O. Box, maintaining a reserve fund is not necessary for our operations.

In the event of unforeseen or urgent expenses, board members have always been prepared to cover these costs personally, ensuring continuity without requiring a formal reserve.

This approach allows us to focus all available resources directly on advancing our mission and run as efficiently as possible.

DETAILS OF ANY DEFICIT

IAD has never gone into deficit.

DONATED FACILITIES AND SERVICES

N/A

DECLARATION

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Strade

Print name

Strade Cadillay

Designation

Co-Director

Date

25/05/2025

International Association for Democracy

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 August 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Receipts		
Crowdfunders	215	471
Other donations	10	1
Total Receipts in year	<u>225</u>	<u>472</u>
Payments:		
<i>Fundraising costs</i>		
Crowdfunder	-	8
<i>Payments for charitable activities:</i>		
P.O. Box	204	204
Web costs	131	55
Bank charges	43	-
<i>Governance costs:</i>	-	-
Total Payments in year	<u>378</u>	<u>267</u>
Net (Payments) / Receipts in year	<u>(153)</u>	<u>205</u>

International Association for Democracy

Statement of Balances as at 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Funds reconciliation			
Opening balance		205	-
Net (Payments) / Receipts in year		<u>(153)</u>	<u>205</u>
Closing balance		<u><u>52</u></u>	<u><u>205</u></u>
Bank & cash balances			
Business current account		<u>52</u>	<u>205</u>
Total funds		<u><u>52</u></u>	<u><u>205</u></u>

The accounts on pages 15 to 17 were approved by the Trustees on 25 May 2026 and are signed on their behalf by:



Strade Cadillay
Co-Director

International Association for Democracy

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 August 2025

1. Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds can be used in furtherance of any of the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees. A single unrestricted fund is maintained for the day to day operations of the Charity.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

All the funds of The International Association for Democracy are unrestricted.

3. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to trustees during the year.

APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts						v2
Report to the trustees/members of		International Association for Democracy						
Registered charity number		SC052745						
On the accounts of the charity for the period		Period start date				Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
		01	September	2024	to	31	August	2025
Set out on pages		15 to 17						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner		The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.						
Basis of independent examiner's statement		My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.						
Independent examiner's statement		In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention - which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.						
Signed:						Date:	27 May 2026	
Name:		John Paul FCIE						
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):		Fellow of ACIE						
Address:		29 Avon Crescent						
		Broughty Ferry						
		Dundee						
		DD5 3TX						

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

None