

# The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

## Shadow World Investigations

#XQPRRC75DT submitted on 10 October 2024

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### **1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us**

We are seeking your support for a project that untangles the web of interests that threaten the peace process and climate stability in Yemen. This project, through a range of media outputs, will deepen public understanding of the private interests that add momentum to the destructive war and analyse the implications of this for global (in)security. Our work aims to support and catalyse efforts promoting peace and ecological justice.

### **Tell us more about your project and the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and how it will bring about significant change**

The international arms trade causes death and destruction around the world, and yet it finds itself effectively above the law and immune from accountability. It shares an intimate connection to money and power, profiting a select few while fueling ongoing conflict throughout the world. We need to challenge the arms trade on a systemic level and rethink the way that we define security to focus on the pressing needs of humanity and the planet.

The war in Yemen illustrates this reality in horrifying detail. The overarching project, led by Shadow World Investigations (SWI), will expose, via a book, a documentary, and other associated multimedia outreach, how the US and UK, as well as major arms-producing European countries, have enabled and facilitated war in Yemen. It will work alongside a parallel project on Gaza to lay bare the truth about the global trade in weapons and the ways political leaders undermine opportunities for peace and make the world significantly more dangerous. By confronting this systemic issue, we are working alongside affected communities in Yemen to demand an end to the war and accountability for those involved.

As the war wages on, Yemen is the quintessential example of a society that needs to work on climate adaptation as soon as possible: it is running out of water. 15.3 million Yemenis already do not have access to sufficient, safe and acceptable water. Instead of being supported towards taking the extreme measures needed to protect their land and population, war is decimating their land.

We argue that the drivers of the war in Yemen are in many ways similar to those of the climate crisis. A group of a few wealthy individuals, states and companies have set out to make as much profit for as long as possible from the burning of fossil fuels, as well as war. Nowhere is this overlap more obvious than in Saudi Arabia, where the principles of “oil for protection” and “oil for arms” have dominated the relationship between the country and the West for over half a century. At the same time, military production is becoming an integral part of “converting” the Saudi economy away from fossil fuels. Yemen was the first serious testing ground for (largely US- and British-built) Saudi military prowess. Yemen is doubly the victim of this world order.

As research for the book and documentary are underway, we see this as an opportunity to engage as many people as possible. We will do this through an extensive outreach campaign, using a mixture of traditional and new media, and a constant public speaking rota at a variety of workshops, panels, events and rallies..

We have done this successfully in the past, and our events have contributed significantly to community organising on peacebuilding and ecological justice. Research that we have worked on has created platforms and tools of education and outreach: we speak directly and offer training to communities,

students, and activists. We work with these movements and a global network of civil society to bring lessons learned from our research into the conversation.

The initiative will address the root causes of conflict and human rights abuses all over the world which are often a result of the geopolitical influence of a corrupt arms trade, an area that continues to be incredibly difficult to fund. Crucially, it will make a vital contribution to the search for peace and climate stability for the people of Yemen. While we urgently need to facilitate peace in Yemen, this project will address and seek accountability for all facets of harm caused by the military-industrial complex on our planet.

### **1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?**

B - Peace-building and conflict resolution

D - Peace work connected with climate breakdown

#### **1.3b Peace-building and conflict resolution**

Our ultimate aim is to help those seeking an end to Western support for the violations of international law that are being committed by Saudi Arabia in Yemen. This end of support is absolutely vital in catalysing international pressure for a diplomatic peace process. While the support continues, there is no end in sight for the people of Yemen.

#### **1.3d Peace work connected with climate breakdown**

Yemen is in immediate danger of climate breakdown: it is running out of water. Rather than facilitating solutions to this disaster, international money is being funnelled into weapons that are causing further destruction to the land and people. It is crucial to connect the dots for the public that climate stability will not be achieved without peace and international support.

### **1.4 Which country is the project based in?**

United Kingdom (GB)

### **1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?**

Yes

#### **1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended**

This application focuses on one part of a multi-year project: a year of outreach and engagement with the media, campaigners, and the general public using the research that will lead to the publication of a book in early 2026 and the release of an associated documentary. This outreach will continue when the book is out, using the book and film to further the aims, as our organisation has done successfully in the past.

### **1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?**

This project is not just intended to provide information, but also to create tools that can be used by campaigners and activists to further their work towards peace and ecological justice. Our project's successes and weaknesses will be measured by the engagement of the wider international peace, climate justice, and human rights movements with our outputs. We constantly engage within these movements to determine the utility and direction of our projects.

## **2.1 Expenditure**

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Project lead and outreach hours	£3,000	Time spent coordinating and speaking at events/workshops/panels
Research and writing support	£1,000	Time spent researching and writing articles/blogs for publication

Travel costs	£1,000	Travel to events
TOTALS	£5,000	

## 2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Foundation	£20,000	£20,000	Supporting the majority of time spent on the project
University of Sussex Knowledge Exchange and Impact Fellowship	£5,000	£5,000	Supported research time some travel for the project
Roddick Foundation	£10,000	£0	Will hopefully support some of the research that will be used for the outreach side of this project.
TOTALS	£35,000	£25,000	

## 2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£5,000

## 2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

## 2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£342,826

## 2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

Yes

### 2.6b Upload File

<https://theedithmellischaritabletrust.org/assets/uploads/2024/10/C332-Full-Accounts-2023-Final.pdf>

## 2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Shadow World Investigations Limited  
20743793  
165810

## 3.1 Your name

Rhona Michie

## 3.2 Your contact telephone number

07944157968

## 3.3 Your position within the organisation

Director of Projects and Planning

## 3.4 Your email address

[rhona@shadowworldinvestigations.org](mailto:rhona@shadowworldinvestigations.org)

## 3.5 Organisation name

Shadow World Investigations

**3.6 Please state the status of your organisation**

NGO

**3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does**

SWI undertakes investigations into state capture and the arms trade to reveal how peace, democracy, human rights, and ecological justice are being undermined. Our goal is to hold the powerful to account and build towards a people-oriented planet.

We empower communities to build movements, challenge injustices and drive change. We challenge the dominant narratives that prioritise national security above public security. We advocate for reforms and actionable solutions that foster a more just society.

**3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation**

7 Cavendish Square

London

W1G 0PE

**3.9 UK telephone number**

07944157968

**3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)**

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**3.11 Year established**

2009

**3.12 Website (if applicable)**

<https://shadowworldinvestigations.org>

**3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)**

@ShadowWorldInv1 on X

@shadowworldinvestigations on Instagram and Facebook

**4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?**

Word of mouth