



The Centre for
Social Justice

The Power to Thrive:
Stronger charities for a changing world

Kawika Solidum
CSJ Foundation

The current picture

“[There are] considerable, cumulative challenges facing the charity sector at this time. For many charities, the risks of financial sustainability are indeed grave... facing difficult choices...”

Mark Simms OBE, Chair of the Charity Commission

Poverty is entrenched and worsening

Deep divides in opportunity and influence

But across the country, small community organisations are tackling poverty in a variety ways, every day.

What if the next big social
breakthrough came from a
charity you've never heard of?

Musicals are killing theatre *David Hare* / The art of losing friends *Damian Thompson*

25 MARCH 2023 | £5.75

WWW.SPECTATOR.CO.UK | EST. 1828

THE SPECTATOR

The ghost children

*Harriet Sergeant on the pupils who never
came back after lockdown*



How we work

Over the last 20 years, the CSJ in conjunction with the CSJF, has developed unparalleled understanding of the root causes of poverty, identified through our alliance of over 800 UK wide small poverty-fighting frontline charities.

Understanding the frontlines

Problems are always being solved out there.



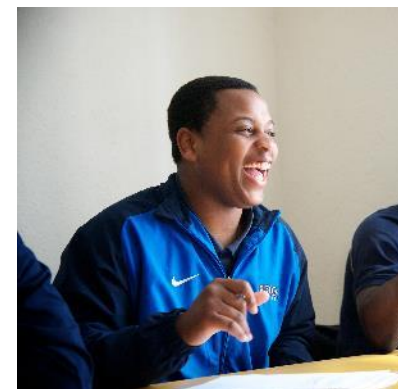
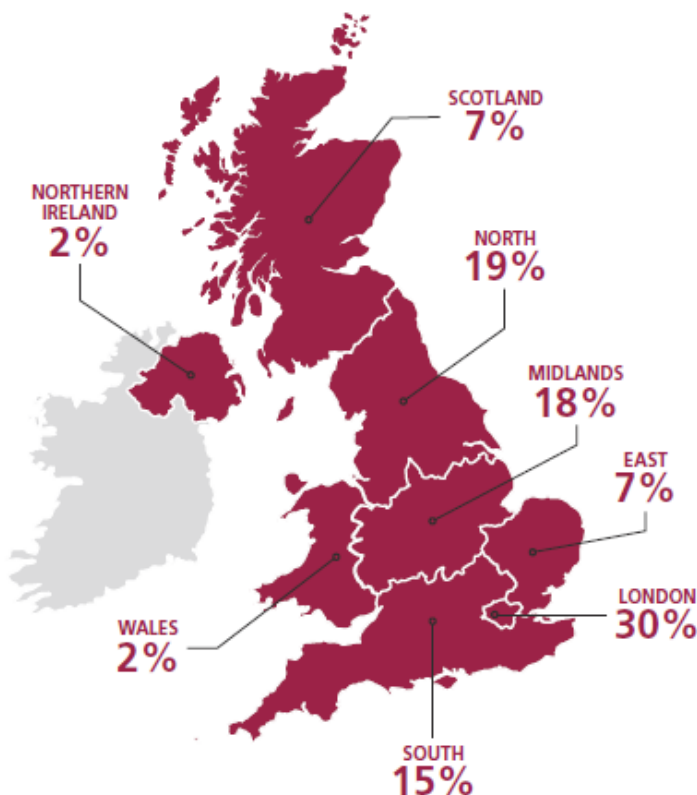
Policy Work

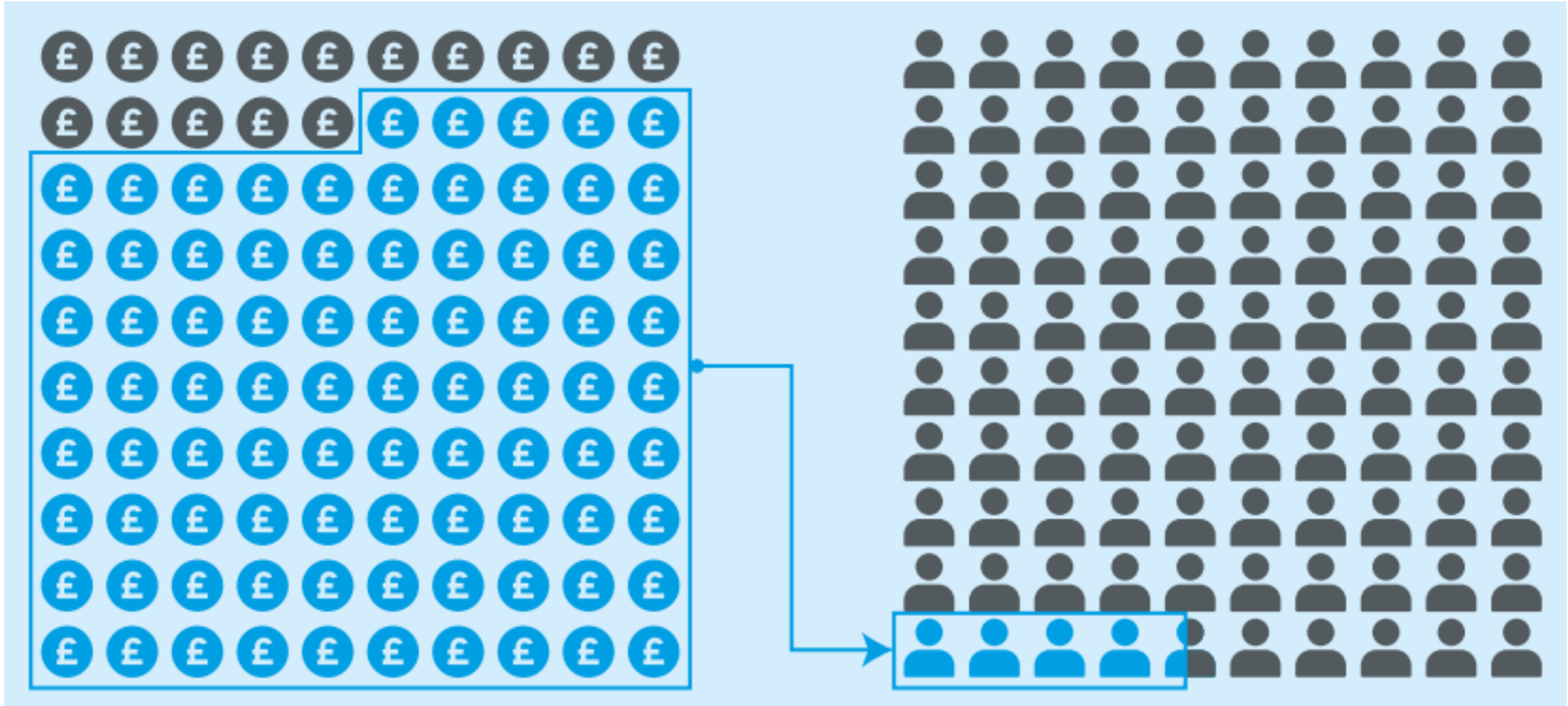
Poverty is about far more than just the absence of money.



Impact

Impact is everything.







85% all charitable income goes to just 4% of charities.



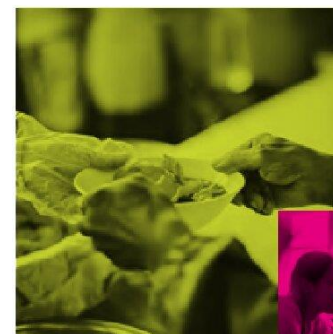
Charities in London receive up to 8x more public funding.



Small charity funding dropped by £4.5 billion and rose by £4.6 billion for large charities.

UNDERFUNDED AND OVERLOOKED

The perilous state of Britain's grassroots charities



May 2024

The risk of overlooking the grassroots

Mega-charities are expanding, threatening to crowd out community-rooted innovators entirely.

Local leaders describe working with “one arm tied behind their back,” unable to unlock their full potential.

When these organisations close or shrink, families and neighbourhoods lose the lifelines they trust most.

Why this matters

We take grassroots social innovation directly to the national stage.

With boots on the ground through our six regional offices, we find what others miss.

We de-risk philanthropy, helping donors avoid costly mistakes by investing in what works or what has high-potential for social impact.

Calls for change

“We need all the functions of the state to ask, ‘What could I do with philanthropic partnerships?’”

Rt Hon Darren Jones MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury

“This Government recognises the enormous power of investment, philanthropy and the difference that purpose driven business can play...we want a new partnership with investors, business and charity.”

Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP
**Secretary of State for Culture,
Media and Sport**



Supercharging Philanthropy

*“There is money out there. To unleash it, the Government must articulate an exciting vision of what can be achieved, be clear it will be used to good effect, and create the conditions to find it. The Government should start with a National Strategy but not one that just stays with theory and principles, but an ambitious direction that **sets numerical targets for giving and galvanises philanthropists to back projects** that support the five national missions.”*

*In Supercharging Philanthropy
CSJ Foundation, 2025*

The CSJ Foundation's vision



A country where small, community-rooted charities are not fighting for scraps but recognised as social innovators.



A system where philanthropy and policy align to scale grassroots ideas into national solutions.



Communities that have long been overlooked shaping - not sidelined in - decisions about their future.