

A black and white portrait of George Orwell, showing his face from the chest up. He has dark hair, a mustache, and is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt.

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1161563

OUR MISSION

George Orwell believed in the moral power of language and understood the dangers that accompany its corruption.

The Orwell Foundation uses his work to celebrate honest writing and reporting, to uncover hidden lives, to confront uncomfortable truths and, in doing so, to promote Orwell's values of integrity, decency and fidelity to truth.

WHAT WE DO

THE ORWELL PRIZES

recognising and rewarding the books and journalism which come closest to realising Orwell's ambition to
'make political writing into an art'

LECTURES AND DEBATES

organising free public lectures and debates; confronting uncomfortable truths

UNREPORTED BRITAIN

uncovering unreported stories and silenced voices

ORWELL'S LEGACY

online publication of resources; events about Orwell; celebrating anniversaries

THE ORWELL YOUTH PRIZE

nurturing the voices and the aspirations of young people

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writing into an art'*

THE ORWELL PRIZES





LECTURES AND DEBATES

organising free
public lectures
and debates

LECTURES AND DEBATES

Every year, we hold a series of lectures, debates and other events. Our events hope to confront uncomfortable truths and move arguments forward.

In 2016, our annual Orwell Lecture was given by Ian Hislop to a sell-out audience and has had over 84,000 online views.

On 15th May this year, we will announce the Prize shortlists at a lecture by Ruth Davidson, leader of the Scottish Conservatives.

The Orwell Lecture 2017 will be given in the autumn by writer A. L. Kennedy.

UNREPORTED BRITAIN

UNREPORTED BRITAIN

uncovering
unreported
stories and
silenced voices

Responding to the collapse in local media, the crisis in the national media and the recent rise in 'fake news', Unreported Britain focuses attention on some of the poorest and/or most socially excluded areas and communities in the UK, and on the people who struggle to make their voices heard, let alone influence the centre of national policy making.

A clear departure from the typical 'pity or scorn' reporting on poverty and social exclusion: Unreported Britain covers the media, the art world, new technology and new community structures (amongst other things) and looks at them in a way which wasn't previously reported



Hand-drawn map by George Orwell in his 1936 'Road to Wigan Pier' Diary

ORWELL'S LEGACY

As the only website authorised by the Orwell Estate, we publish online resources by and about Orwell. You can read many of Orwell's essays on our website for free.

We hold events about Orwell and the contemporary relevance of his work, and celebrate anniversaries.

On Tuesday 6th June, we are organising an all-day live reading of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Actors, writers, politicians and activists will read the book alongside members of the public. The reading will be held in Senate House (Orwell's inspiration for the ministry of truth). The reading will be live-streamed into libraries and theatres across the country.

NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS

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This is to certify that
Mr. **GEORGE ORWELL**
of **The Tribune**

ORWELL'S
LEGACY

online
publication of
resources;
events about
Orwell;
anniversaries



is a member of the **T. & P.**
Branch of the National Union of Journalists

{ **Leslie R. Alous** Branch
(Address) **66, Priory Lane...**

Member's

81%

say their experience
made them more
confident about going
to university

79%

say their experience
made them more
interested in current
affairs

94%

say their experience
made them more
confident in their
writing

The Orwell Youth Prize, under the auspices of the Orwell Foundation, works with young people aged 14 – 18 to improve their confidence in writing, increase their interest in current affairs and social issues, and widen participation in higher education.

We do this through:

- Workshops taking guest writers into schools
- Regional workshops, offering young people interested in writing a chance to come together and get one to one feedback on their work
- Our writing prize for young people which uniquely offers each entrant the chance to get individual written feedback on a draft entry
- Our annual Celebration Day at Pembroke College, Oxford- a day of workshops and seminars with writers when we announce the winners of the Orwell Youth Prize

Since being founded in 2014, we have had 1325 interactions with young people all over the country.

THE ORWELL
YOUTH PRIZE

nurturing the
voices and the
aspirations of
young people

Hide and Seek, by Emily Wicks

Winner, Year 9, 10 and 11 Category

The Orwell Youth Prize 2016

They're on their way today, love.
When they arrive
We have to hide
Turn off the lights
And draw the curtains.
It's just like hide and seek
And you can't make a peep.
Okay?
Let's go.

But Mummy I don't want to play,
Turn on the lights!
I'm hungry Mummy,
We haven't eaten since yesterday!
I hate hide and seek,
Isn't it time for me to clean my teeth?
Why's it so cold Mummy, what happened to the
heating?
It's time for my TV show, where did the telly go?

Please be quiet my dear, soon they'll be here.
When they knock on the door
Get on the floor,
You'll eat later I swear.
It will be loud and scary
But you don't have to worry.
I'll protect you.
Everything will be fine.
Everything will be fine.
Everything-

Shit

They're here, come here!
I know they're loud,
I know they're shouting,
They'll go soon.
But back tomorrow afternoon.
Don't be scared

Don't be scared

Voice of a Benefits Claimant by Anna Morris (excerpt)

Winner, Year 12 and 13 category

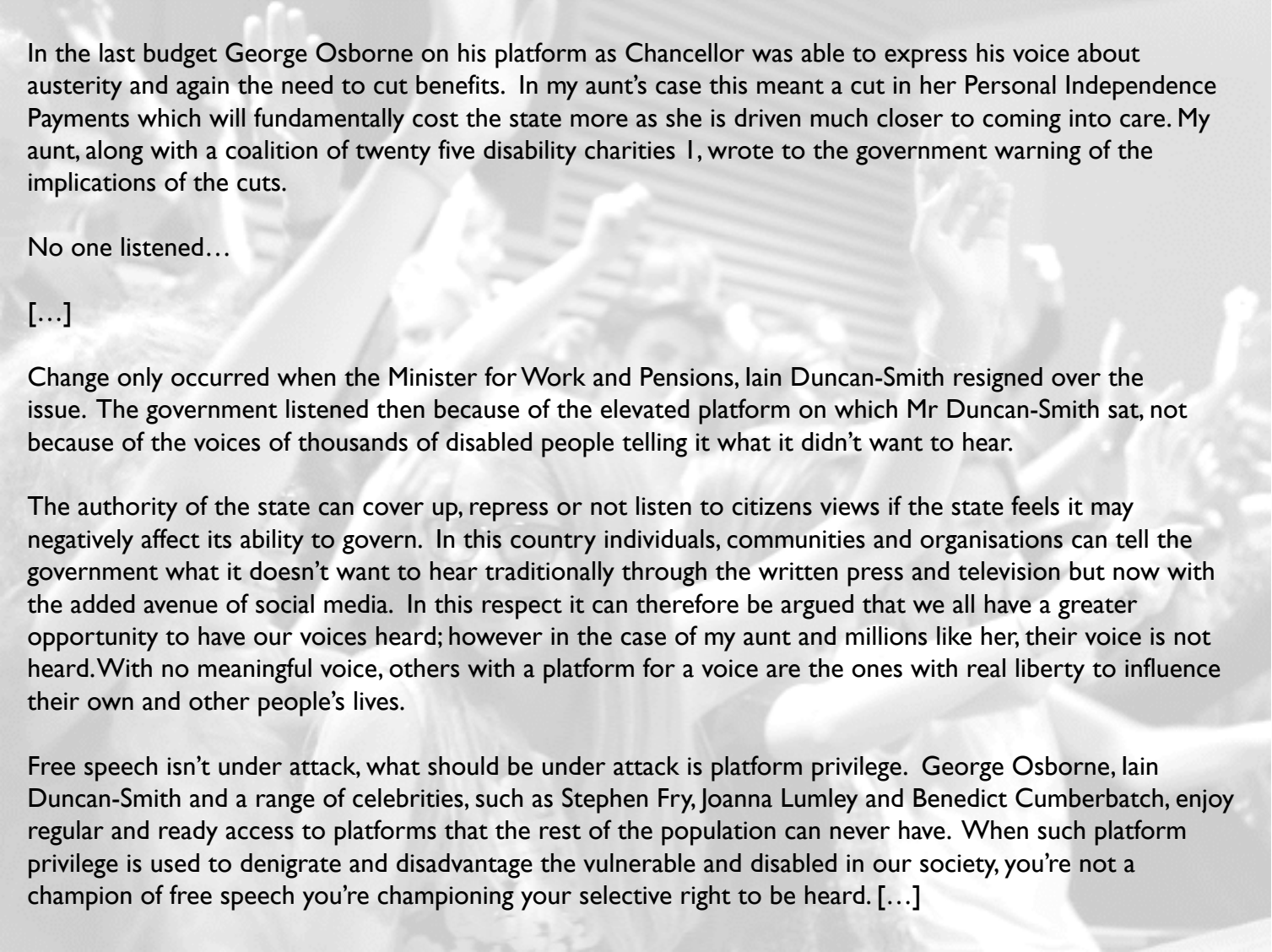
The Orwell Youth Prize 2016

Free speech is an important and valued right of our society, particularly when compared to other political cultures where this opportunity is not allowed or is curtailed in many ways. Countries such as China, North Korea and Russia do not enjoy this right as we do. I would say however that free speech only really means something if you have a platform with which to use it. Overwhelmingly, white, middle-class, Oxbridge educated politicians and ‘celebrities’ have such a platform to tell people what they do not wish to hear and promote their own views and prejudices. These are the people who are heard and drive the direction of our society. Those without a platform, the poor and vulnerable are effectively voiceless.

Disability benefits is an issue I feel strongly about as my aunt, who is 53 years old and claims disability benefits, has no voice that will be heard. She has diabetes, arthritis, mental health difficulties and a visual impairment, all of which have been made worse by a recent, serious illness, encephalitis. My aunt relies on benefits as she is now unable to work although she has done so in the past in various paid and voluntary positions. She doesn’t drink, smoke or drive and rarely goes out. She certainly doesn’t live in luxury and budgets very carefully to meet all her personal and health needs. She is not a “benefits scrounger” which is often the image portrayed by those with a platform to express their prejudices.

Over the past few years there have been a number of changes to her benefits which, to a point, she has quietly accepted. However, recently she has really started to vent her frustration, anger and fear about changes that have gone too far. For example, she lives in a small, rented two bedroomed terrace and has had her benefits cut under the governments “bedroom tax” even though the second bedroom is used for carers staying and for storing her equipment. She and many others, including a range of disability organisations campaigned about these changes affecting the most vulnerable in our society. The changes were implemented.

No one listened.



In the last budget George Osborne on his platform as Chancellor was able to express his voice about austerity and again the need to cut benefits. In my aunt's case this meant a cut in her Personal Independence Payments which will fundamentally cost the state more as she is driven much closer to coming into care. My aunt, along with a coalition of twenty five disability charities I, wrote to the government warning of the implications of the cuts.

No one listened...

[...]

Change only occurred when the Minister for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan-Smith resigned over the issue. The government listened then because of the elevated platform on which Mr Duncan-Smith sat, not because of the voices of thousands of disabled people telling it what it didn't want to hear.

The authority of the state can cover up, repress or not listen to citizens views if the state feels it may negatively affect its ability to govern. In this country individuals, communities and organisations can tell the government what it doesn't want to hear traditionally through the written press and television but now with the added avenue of social media. In this respect it can therefore be argued that we all have a greater opportunity to have our voices heard; however in the case of my aunt and millions like her, their voice is not heard. With no meaningful voice, others with a platform for a voice are the ones with real liberty to influence their own and other people's lives.

Free speech isn't under attack, what should be under attack is platform privilege. George Osborne, Iain Duncan-Smith and a range of celebrities, such as Stephen Fry, Joanna Lumley and Benedict Cumberbatch, enjoy regular and ready access to platforms that the rest of the population can never have. When such platform privilege is used to denigrate and disadvantage the vulnerable and disabled in our society, you're not a champion of free speech you're championing your selective right to be heard. [...]

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