

**SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED: THE ORWELL PRIZE
FOR EXPOSING BRITAIN'S SOCIAL EVILS 2018**

EMBARGOED UNTIL 19:15, FRIDAY 18TH MAY 2018

The Orwell Prize 2018 shortlists were announced this evening at the Bath Festival, featuring The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils 2018, sponsored and supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

- The Orwell Prize is Britain's most prestigious prize for political writing – each year prizes are awarded for books, journalism and 'Exposing Britain's Social Evils'
- The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils supports and encourages original, insightful and impactful reporting on social issues in the UK.
- The Prize rewards multi-media stories which are reported across one or more platform, including reporting via social media, audio (including podcasts), video, photojournalism and journalistic writing.
- Stories covered issues ranging from abuse in an Immigration Removal Centre to the phenomenon of "Shit Life Syndrome" among people in Blackpool left behind by the modern economy.
- Judge Farrah Storr said: 'This has been a momentous year of change, one in which we rely more than ever on our best journalists to seek out the truth and present it back to the world. This year's shortlisted candidates have not only done that but in the process have created works of journalism that are as brilliant and brave as they are beautifully crafted. Orwell would have approved.'
- The winner of the £3,000 prize will be announced at the Royal Society of Arts on 25th June 2018 alongside the Orwell Prizes for books and journalism

The shortlist for The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils 2018 is:

- **Her Name Was Lindy** *Andy Davies, Anja Popp, Dai Baker* (Channel 4 News)
- **On the Edge** *Sarah O'Connor, John Burn-Murdoch and Christopher Nunn* (Financial Times)
- **Behind Locked Doors** *Joe Plomin* (BBC Panorama)
- **This Man Had His Leg Broken in Four Places Because He Is Gay** *Patrick Strudwick* (BuzzFeed UK)
- **Four young black men die: were they killed by the police?** *Mark Townsend* (The Observer)
- **Spice** *Jennifer Williams* (Manchester Evening News)

THE ORWELL PRIZE

The judges for The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils 2018 are **Campbell Robb** (Chief Executive, The Joseph Rowntree Foundation), **Farrah Storr** (Editor-in-chief, *Cosmopolitan*), journalist and winner of the 2017 Prize, **Felicity Lawrence** and **Nicholas Timmins** (Senior Fellow at the King's Fund).

Of the shortlist, Nicholas Timmins said:

'Its range includes ice-cold analysis, persistent digging, shocking television, and powerful local reporting, with words and pictures that manage, all at the same time, to horrify, move and inspire.'

The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils, sponsored and supported by the JRF, is named in recognition of the task Joseph Rowntree gave his organization to 'search out the underlying causes of weakness or evil' that lay behind Britain's social problems.

This is the fourth year The Orwell Foundation has awarded The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils: previous winners include Alison Holt for her reporting of care of the elderly and vulnerable, and Nicci Gerrard for her writing about Dementia for *The Observer*.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The Orwell Foundation is a registered charity (1161563) providing free cultural events and resources for the public benefit. Every year, the Foundation awards The Orwell Prize, Britain's most prestigious prize for political writing, to the work which comes closest to George Orwell's ambition 'to make political writing into an art'. There are three prizes: for Books, Journalism and Exposing Britain's Social Evils.
2. **The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) is an independent social change organisation working to solve UK poverty.** Through research, policy, collaboration and practical solutions, we aim to inspire action and change that will create a prosperous UK without poverty. For more information go to www.jrf.org.uk
3. The Orwell Prize 2018 is for work published in the calendar year 2017. For more details and rules of entry please visit www.orwellfoundation.com
4. The Orwell Foundation is supported by Political Quarterly, Richard Blair (George Orwell's son), the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and private donations. The Foundation is based at University College London, home to the Orwell Archive and the annual Orwell Lecture. Recent Orwell lecturers include Ian Hislop, Ruth Davidson and author and comedian A. L. Kennedy.

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