



Welcome to the February 2025 newsletter

Hey there philanthropoids,

I don't know about you, but despite being perfectly aware that February is a shorter month, it still somehow manages to catch me off-guard every year. So I have to be honest that the end-of-month newsletter deadline coming around so quickly came as a bit of a shock. "But there won't be anything to write about," I said to myself, "because we've barely had four weeks since the last update!" I was, of course, entirely wrong about that. For better or worse (and let's be honest, it's primarily worse), the problem so far this year hasn't been a lack of news affecting philanthropy or civil society, but rather how to keep up to speed with all of it without succumbing to the temptation to crawl into a small box and just hide for a while. (Which, I have to admit, has felt sorely tempting at times).

Thus, despite the fact that it is a short month, I very much suspect from looking at my running list of bullet points that this won't be a short newsletter... There's plenty of news to round up (a depressing amount of which is linked in one way or other to Donald Trump or Elon Musk), as well as a rich haul of philanthro-nuggets I have squirreled away over the course of the month. (Plus a few updates on what I've been doing that may hopefully be of interest).

Right, let's stop dilly-dallying and crack on with it, eh?

PHILANTHROPY IN THE NEWS

Trump's ongoing assault on civil society

Reluctantly, like a hungry traveller who has run out of options and has not choice but to order a highly-questionable burger in a seedy late-night diner, I feel compelled to consume the news about all the awful things Donald Trump and his administration are doing, whilst knowing full well that the only way I can keep it remotely digestible it is by cutting it up into small chunks (and then preferably washing it down with something that takes the taste away). To that end, I have divided up some of the key Trump-prompted stories affecting philanthropy and civil society over the last few weeks below.



Trump: Questioning "NGOs"

The final weeks of January saw a barrage of executive orders - including ones that resulted in USAID being all but demolished in a matter of

days, and which (temporarily) threatened that all US federal grant funding would be stopped. Whilst February has not seen quite the same volume of new policy pronouncements, the awfulness certainly hasn't abated. There have still been plenty of unpleasant shocks and surprises for NGOs and funders to deal with: most notably [an Executive Order on "Advancing United States Interests When Funding"](#) which demanded a review into all US government funding for "NGOs", and stated that it is the policy of the new administration to "stop funding NGOs that undermine the national interest".

This was, quite rightly, greeted with shock and dismay by many, and in one sense there isn't much to be said other than "it's very, very bad". But there are a few things worth noting. Firstly, the use of the term "Non-Governmental Organization" (NGO) seems deliberate. This is not, in general, standard terminology when talking about nonprofits in the US, so it seems specifically calibrated (in my mind) to imply organisations that are international in focus (and therefore inherently suspect in Trump's 'America first' view of the world), and whose work probably includes advocating or campaigning for rights as well as catering to immediate needs (which presumably also means that they are 'antidemocratic' and 'subverting the will of the people').

It doesn't seem accidental that the use of "NGO" rather than "nonprofit" much more clearly echoes efforts by various authoritarian regimes around the world (e.g. Hungary, India, Georgia) to delegitimise civil society by accusing organisations of being agents of "foreign powers", and thus opposed to the "national interest". And it is worth noting that the idea of "undermining the national interest" is itself something of a red flag, as it is often invoked by populists – who position themselves as staunch defenders of a national interest that they are (conveniently) uniquely able to determine – as a means of portraying those who disagree with them as not just misguided, but unpatriotic and deliberately seeking to damage the country.

This seems likely to be Trump's intent with this new executive order: whilst it would be possible simply to say "I want to curb these nonprofit organisations because they are at odds with my own views and values and are likely to oppose me", autocrats around the world have worked out that instead of saying the quiet part out loud, it is easier to justify

civil society repression (and, indeed, repression of all kinds) if you instead make reference to some supposedly agreed sense of national interest, and position yourself as its defender against shadowy forces bent on subverting it. (And if you want to unlock the autocrat boss level, you can even go one step further and suggest that NGOs are not only undermining your own national interest but the national interests of your autocratic chums around the world; as Trump and Musk have done with their [false claims that NGOs funded by USAID were involved in “voter turnout” programs in India designed to undermine the government of Narendra Modi](#)).



Trump: Foreign Aid

The Trump administration's efforts to dismantle the US's foreign aid capabilities continued this month. There was a tiny sliver of hope early on in the month for employees of USAID (and anyone who cares about, y'know, global poverty, famine, potentially epidemic illness etc), with the news that a federal judge had granted a block on the government's plans to gut the aid agency, but it quickly became apparent that this would only be temporary. Towards the end of the month, the scale of the destruction became clearer, with news that [well over half of USAID's workforce \(5,800 out of 10,000 people\) has either been placed on leave or fired already](#). At the same time, there has been ongoing coverage of the devastating effect these cuts are having in many countries around

the world where USAID was funding vital projects: [emergency food kitchens in Sudan](#), [hospitals for refugees on the Myanmar/Thailand border](#), [HIV programs in South Africa](#), and [independent media and humanitarian assistance projects in Ukraine](#) are all on the brink of collapse as a result of Trump and Musk's gleeful (and quite probably illegal) abandonment of US foreign aid commitments. Whilst other world leaders and politicians have so far been somewhat reluctant to criticise the Trump administration's demolition of USAID too openly, plenty of commentators (including former [UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown](#)) have come out and condemned the actions as both morally indefensible and harmful to US interests.

Aside from the damage it is doing elsewhere, critics point out, the attack on USAID may end up being a major own-goal for the Trump administration itself. Some of Trump's supporter base clearly share his disdain for international aid and have bought into the idea that it is a "waste of American money", and that USAID is somehow driven by a "radical leftist agenda". (An idea, btw, that will strike anyone with even a vague knowledge of the history of USAID's role as a tool of US foreign policy as laughable). But others, particularly among Christian supporters of Trump, clearly feel much more unease with what the government is doing, even going so far as to [argue that it is inherently un-Christian](#) and pointing out that the [cuts to USAID are directly affecting the work of many evangelical organisations that operate overseas](#). Whether this will have any impact in the long run on the willingness of these Christian groups to support Trump remains to be seen. But even if it doesn't harm the administration domestically, many are also pointing out that it will [undoubtedly harm the US's standing and influence globally](#) – both because it will no longer be seen as a trustworthy partner and moral leader, and because the withdrawal of USAID funding will open up the space for other powers such as [Russia](#) and [China](#) to exert more influence.

The big question for philanthropic funders, as we highlighted in the last newsletter, is going to be how they respond to this combination of withdrawn government funding and politically-motivated attacks. Do they step into the breach and try to cover gaps, even in the knowledge that their efforts will never be enough? And does that risk putting them

in the firing line for future attacks from the Trump administration for going against the “national interest”? If so, is that just something they will need to accept? These are clearly big questions that the whole US nonprofit and philanthropy sector is grappling with right now, and there have been many interesting articles and comment pieces throughout the month, including [one from the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* on ‘how philanthropy can stop panicking and start helping’](#) and one from [Inside Philanthropy on the question of whether there are potential downsides to philanthropists stepping in to cover cuts in government funding](#).

We have also started to see some practical actions, such as the launch of a new [Foreign Aid Bridge Fund](#), which offers donors a way to contribute to an emergency fund designed to deal with the immediate impacts of lost USAID funding around the world, and an [announcement by the MacArthur Foundation that it is going to increase its grant spending for two years “in response to this crisis”](#). (OK, a cynic might point out that they are only planning on increasing from the legal minimum 5% payout to 6%, but it is still much-needed extra money for the nonprofit sector, and hopefully other foundations will follow suit).



[Image by Thierry Ehrman, CC BY 2.0](#)

As we highlighted last month, the most prominent example so far of philanthropy choosing to step into the gaps left by government has come in the form of Michael Bloomberg's announcement that he would continue to fund the cost of US commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement. But there are worrying signs that other climate philanthropists may be going in the opposite direction and choosing to refocus their work in line with the Trump administration's climate-sceptic orientation. [An article in the *Financial Times* this month highlighted the fact that Jeff Bezos's Bezos Earth Fund has ended its support for the Science Based Targets Initiative](#), a globally-recognised organisation that helps to determine how companies can meet net zero objectives. The FT article reported claims from two anonymous sources that the decision was partly driven by Bezos's desire to avoid annoying Trump. The Bezos Earth Fund denied this, as reported in both [*Inside Philanthropy*](#) and the [*Guardian*](#), but as both articles point out, even if it is not the only reason in this case, it has led to concerns among many working in the climate space about the risk of other funders choosing to move away from climate projects that might bring them into conflict with the Trump administration. Which, as a number of critics have already argued, could be seen as a paradigm example of the sort of "obeying in advance" that historian Timothy Snyder has warned allows authoritarian governments to flourish.

Trump: DEI

The risk of funders "obeying in advance" is also very much in evidence with regard to the Trump administration's attacks on DEI. [*Inside Philanthropy* carried an article this month highlighting the different statements and responses so far from foundations to the President's anti-DEI executive order](#), which range from a [robust rejection by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) through to the news that the [Howard Hughes Medical Institute has apparently pulled the plug on a \\$60 million initiative aimed at boosting diversity in university science programmes](#) (and even erased all mention of the initiative from its website). Many funders that have previously had a stated commitment to DEI, however, will probably find themselves in the middle ground: not necessarily wanting to pick an open battle with the Trump administration, but at the

same time not wanting to abandon important work they are funding. For these organisations, the question will be whether it is best to reframe their funding in a way that doesn't draw the ire of the new administration, or whether this concedes too much principle in the name of pragmatism, and thus it is better to speak up for what they believe to be important.

Some funders, however, don't seem to be quite so troubled by these sorts of questions, and appear to be much more willing to abandon commitments to DEI altogether. Mark Zuckerberg, for instance, made it clear pretty early on that he was willing to do away with any DEI focus at his company Meta as part of his efforts to ingratiate himself with Donald Trump. Many employees of Zuckerberg's philanthropic vehicle the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) expressed concerned about these developments, given their organisation's previous commitment to DEI principles. [Early on in February, they seemed to be getting reassurances that CZI would be sticking to these commitments](#), but it didn't take long for Zuckerberg to perform an abrupt volte-face, and later in the month it was reported that [staff at CZI had now been told that the organisation would be doing away with all of its internal and external DEI efforts](#). As the number of companies following Meta's lead in abandoning DEI continues to grow, we may well see more of this in the philanthropy realm too.

Aga Khan RIP

Moving away from Trump and Musk for a blessed moment, this month also brought [the news of the death of the Aga Khan](#) – the spiritual leader of the world's 12-15 million Ismaili Muslims and a noted philanthropist. I have long been aware of the Aga Khan through the work of the foundation he established in 1967, which funds lots of vital projects around the globe; many of which address the needs of some of the world's poorest communities. But I didn't really know much about his Ismaili faith and the role that played in shaping his giving, so I was fascinated to read [a piece in *The Conversation* by the scholar of Islamic philanthropy Shariq Siddiqui](#) explaining some of this in the wake of the Aga Khan's death. I didn't know, for instance, that Ismaili Muslims are

expected to give 12.5% of their income away each year in the form of *zakat*, compared to the 2.5% that is standard for many other Muslims. I also didn't know that pluralism and a willingness to engage across divides were such core tenets of Ismaili beliefs. At a time when that kind of willingness seems in perilously short supply, and the foundational principles of international aid are under attack, the example set by the Aga Khan seems incredibly timely.



[Image by UK Department for International Development \(DFID\), 2014,](#)
[CC BY 2.0](#)

Rate Scott! The verdict is in on Mackenzie's giving

Whilst we are on the subject of “philanthropists who seem broadly like a force for good in the world”, this month saw the launch of [the final report in the Center for Effective Philanthropy's three year study tracking the impact of Mackenzie Scott's no-strings-attached approach to giving](#), following her emergence onto the elite philanthropy scene back in 2019.



The [report found that Scott's large, unrestricted gifts have had a significant positive impact on most of the organisations she has funded](#) – making them more financially resilient, helping to enable innovation and reducing levels of burnout, among other things. These findings (and those of the previous reports in this CEP series) are really interesting, as one of the questions that some people have asked all along about Mackenzie Scott's approach has been "yes, but is it *effective*?" And the answer would seem to be a fairly definitive "yes". Despite that, what we haven't seen much evidence of so far is other funders or philanthropists following Scott's lead. As an article in *Inside Philanthropy* noted, [there is a noticeable gap between the willingness of funders to say nice things about Scott's giving and their enthusiasm for adopting a similar approach themselves](#). Perhaps that will change now that the evidence is there to show that this kind of approach is effective, or perhaps it will take a bit longer for norms to shift - only time will tell.

Barely Live Aid: UK downgrades its commitments

Just to show that the current US administration isn't alone in taking a morally objectionable and politically short-sighted approach to international aid and development, [UK Prime Minister Kier Starmer announced this month that the country would be reducing its aid](#)

[spending commitment from 0.5% to 0.3% in order to free up money for increased defence spending](#). Whilst Labour were cagey during the run-up to last year's election about committing to returning aid spending to its original 0.7% level (following the previous Conservative government's decision to cut it), they did promise to look at doing this "as soon as the economic situation allows". And whilst many did not expect this to happen especially soon, they also probably did not expect the aid commitment to be lowered even further in the meantime. (I suspect the chances of it ever going back to 0.7% are, at this point, fairly remote).



[Image by UK Department for International Development \(DFID\), 2014,](#)
[CC BY 2.0](#)

At a time when many civil society organisations and communities around the world are still reeling from the shock withdrawal of USAID funding, this decision by the Labour government feels like a particularly stark and depressing abandonment of moral leadership. It may well prove politically damaging too, as many are likely to feel a strong sense of betrayal of both value and commitments that they hold to be important. It will also place further strain on civil society organisations and philanthropic funders, who may see their resources shrink or may be called upon to step in and cover gaps.

Boosting UK philanthropy?

The CEO of the Charity Commission for England and Wales, David Holdsworth, gave a speech at this year's annual Beacon Collaborative conference (to an audience including yours truly), where he [reaffirmed the Commission's strategic commitment to encouraging philanthropy](#), which became a priority under outgoing Chair Orlando Fraser KC (and which we covered in this newsletter at the time). There remains a valid question about the extent to which it is the job of the charity sector regulator to champion philanthropy, but the Commission has always positioned it as part of its duty to ensure the financial health and resilience of charities, which makes a reasonable amount sense. (Besides, the culture of philanthropy in the UK could still do with all the champions it can get, so the Commission's interest should probably be welcomed).



In amongst various fairly standard warm words about the unique value of philanthropy in being responsive and fostering innovation, and the potential for growth in the UK, it was interesting to note that one of the more substantive things Holdsworth did in his speech was [to reiterate the Commission's position on the acceptance or rejection of contentious gifts](#): namely that charities should accept these when it is in the organisation's best interests, unless there is a strong reason not to. This

was a point that Orlando Fraser was keen to emphasise during his time at chair, and which raised some eyebrows around the sector at first; although the subsequent publication of clear and detailed guidance helped to reassure most people that the Commission was not suddenly encouraging a free-for-all on ethically questionable donations, but rather just restating the existing laws and regulations in a way that might help charity leaders and trustees when it comes to making difficult judgements about whether to accept gifts or not.

All a Bid Joke? Musk and OpenAI

Just like picking at a particularly annoying scab, I'm afraid I can't help returning to Elon Musk for the final item in this month's news round up. This time, not focusing on his role at the head of the entirely made up (and probably unlawful) Department of Government Efficiency, but rather on his ongoing beef with OpenAI.



[Image by Gage Skidmore, CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

If you are a keen reader of the newsletter, you may remember from previous editions that ChatGPT creator OpenAI underwent a chaotic few weeks in late 2023, when CEO Sam Altman was fired and then rapidly rehired, precipitating an internal power struggle at the company that Altman's faction went on to win. Ever since then, Altman has been looking for a way to escape from OpenAI's hybrid corporate structure, in which the commercial part of the organisation is wholly-owned by the original nonprofit entity that OpenAI was set up as, but that has so far

proven more difficult than he might have hoped. (Because, thankfully, it turns out that there are actually quite strict laws in place that prevent you from simply turning a tax-exempt nonprofit into a for-profit company simply because you have now decided that it is a viable way to make money...)

Which brings us back to Elon Musk. Musk was one of the original founders of OpenAI as a nonprofit back in 2015, and has been highly critical of the attempts to turn it into a commercial entity. Which I'm sure he would like us all to believe is due to some deep point of principle about the importance of developing AI in a safe and ethical manner, and the difficulties of combining the profit motive with this goal, but which in reality almost certainly has more to do with the fact that he really doesn't like Sam Altman anymore and that he wants to stifle OpenAI in order to benefit his own companies' efforts to develop AI. To which end, Musk this month announced an audacious \$97 billion bid to buy Open AI (along with a group of other investors). This was quickly rebuffed, as it is well below the current estimated market valuation of around \$300 billion, but as many experts pointed out Musk probably wasn't especially disappointed as this almost certainly wasn't a genuine bid to buy the company, but rather a way of establishing an artificially high price for OpenAI's nonprofit assets in order to make it more difficult (and much more expensive) for Altman and his allies to turn OpenAI into a for-profit entity, as that would involve buying out all of those assets. So, in essence, this was – like pretty much everything Musk does – basically just trolling on a very grand scale.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

This is the section where I update you on what we have been doing at Why Philanthropy Matters over the last month or so.

Philanthropy at a time of chaos

Prompted by the general awfulness going on in the US at the moment, I wrote up some thoughts on what role philanthropy can (and should) play at a time of chaos for a new WPM long read this month.



[Read the article](#)

The Philanthropisms podcast:

On the podcast this month we had two more great guests. First up was political philosopher Ted Lechterman, discussing the philosophy of philanthropy, and then we had political scientist Edouard Morena, discussing climate philanthropy



Philanthropisms

Ted Lechterman: The philosophy of philanthropy





Philanthropisms

Edouard Morena: Climate philanthropy



[Listen to the episode with Ted](#)

[Listen to the episode with Edouard](#)

Chronicle of Philanthropy article

I was very pleased this month to tick off a long-standing work goal by getting quoted in an article for the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. The piece in question was about the seemingly slow response by US foundations to the cuts to USAID and the threat of federal grant funding being withdrawn, and I offered up some thoughts on the big questions it poses for philanthropy (which I then expanded upon in the WPM article just mentioned above).

[Read the article \(\\$\)](#)

Civil Society podcast

As a brief bit of respite from what's going in the US right now (although thinking about it we did end up talking about J.D. Vance...), I appeared as a guest on the *Civil Society* podcast this month – chatting through “a rough history of philanthropy in the UK” alongside host Rob Preston and the ever-marvellous Fozia Irfan (of BBC Children in Need and “Transformative Philanthropy” fame).



Civil Society Podcast

A rough history of philanthropy in the UK



Read a transcript of the podcast

SSIR Webinar

This month (just yesterday, in fact), I took part in a webinar for Stanford Social Innovation Review (in partnership with DAFgiving360) on AI and Philanthropy, alongside Shelly Kurtz, a Professor of Innovation Management at Pacific Lutheran University. The webinar was really well attended (if you were there, thanks for coming!) and we both had a chance to offer some thoughts on the various different opportunities and challenges that AI might pose for nonprofits. If you registered before the event you will definitely be able to watch the recording. I'm not sure if you can still register now, but if you want to see it you could try doing so at [this link](#).

Beacon Collaborative Annual Conference

I also got myself out of the garden office and down to London this month for the annual Beacon Collaborative conference, where I was involved in lots of interesting discussions about philanthropy and managed to say hello to many familiar faces (and a few new ones). If you're reading this and you were one of those people, it was great to see you, and I'm sorry if we didn't have the chance to chat for that long!



OTHER GOOD STUFF

This is the bit where I share other philanthropy-related things I have come across this month that might not quite count as news but are definitely worth checking out.

The Impossible Math of Philanthropy:

Judging from my LinkedIn feed, one of the most-read (or at least most shared) philanthropy-relevant articles this month was a short opinion piece in the *New York Times* on the "[Impossible Math of Philanthropy](#)". The basic argument of this piece was that philanthropy (or charity) doesn't really work, because "more often than not charities work to mitigate harm cause by business" and when they do so, they do it with only a tiny fraction of the financial resources that those businesses have accrued in the first place through committing those harms. Which is a valid and important argument, although perhaps slightly overstated, and certainly by no means new. (The question of whether philanthropy is a means of addressing inequality, or merely a symptom of it has been

posed by plenty of people over the last few hundred years, and this is just another version of that same basic point as far as I can see?)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sin\left(3t_2 + \frac{\pi}{6}\right) = A \sin\left(3t_2 + \frac{\pi}{6}\right); \\
 & = \frac{1}{2} k y_2^3; E_c = E - E_p = \frac{1}{2} k(A^2 - y_2^3) \\
 & = \frac{1}{2} k(A^2 - y_2^3) \Rightarrow y_2 = A \sqrt[3]{\frac{2}{3}} = \frac{6}{3} \cdot 10^{-1} \text{ V} \\
 & E_p = E_{p_{\max}} \Rightarrow \sin^2\left(3t_p + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = 1 \Rightarrow \sin \\
 & = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi\right); n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \\
 & y) * z = \left[\frac{1}{2}(x + y - xy + 1)\right] * z = - \\
 & + xy - xyz + z + 1 = \frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{1}{2}(x + y \right. \\
 & y * z) = x * \left[\frac{1}{2}(y + z - yz + 1)\right] = \\
 & x(y + z - yz + 1) + 1 = (x * y) * \\
 & x * y = \frac{1}{2}(x + y - xy + 1) \\
 & = \int_{-a}^0 x^2 e^{ax} dx = \frac{1}{a}(x^2 e^{ax}) \Big|_{-a}^0 - \frac{2}{a} \int_{-a}^0 \\
 & -a^2 - \frac{2}{a} \left[\frac{1}{a}(x e^{ax}) \Big|_{-a}^0 - \frac{1}{a} \int_{-a}^0 e^{ax} dx\right] \\
 & + \frac{2}{a^2} \left[\frac{1}{a}(e^{ax}) \Big|_{-a}^0\right] = -a e^{-a^2} - \frac{2}{a} e^{-a^2} \\
 & = \frac{1}{a^2 e^{a^2}} [2e^{a^2} - 2 - 2a^2 - a^4]. \\
 & Q_{\text{total}} = Q_1 + Q_2 = 3\epsilon_0 \frac{S}{d_1} U_0 \\
 & C_1 = C_2 = \epsilon_0 \frac{S}{d_1} = 8,85 \text{ pF} \\
 & \frac{1 - \left(-\frac{1}{n+2}\right)^{n+1}}{1 + \frac{1}{n+2}} + \frac{1}{n+1} \cdot \frac{1 - \left(-\frac{1}{n+1}\right)}{1 + \frac{1}{n+1}} \\
 & - \frac{1}{n+2} \left(-\frac{1}{n+1}\right)^{n+1} - \frac{1 - \left(-\frac{1}{n+2}\right)^{n+1}}{n+3} = \\
 & (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{(n+2)^n} + (-1)^n \cdot \frac{n+3}{n+1} \cdot \frac{1}{(n+2)^{n+1}} \\
 & I_R = \frac{U}{R} = \frac{220}{17,32} = 12,7 \text{ A}, \\
 & \frac{I_R}{I_R^2 + I_L^2} = \frac{R}{\sqrt{R^2 + L^2 \omega^2}} = \frac{17,32}{34,64} = \frac{1}{2}. \varphi = \\
 & \omega_0 = \frac{1}{C \omega_0} \Rightarrow \omega_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi \sqrt{LC}} = \frac{1}{2\pi \sqrt{\frac{X_L}{\omega} C}} \\
 & \cdot (x + t)I_2 + (xt - yz)I_2 = 0. \\
 & \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & t \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x+t & 0 \\ 0 & x+t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -t & y \\ z & -x \end{pmatrix}. \\
 & \begin{pmatrix} y \\ t \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -t & y \\ z & -x \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} yz - xt & 0 \\ 0 & yz - tx \end{pmatrix} = \\
 & yz - xt)I_2 = -(xt - yz)I_2, \\
 & = p_2 V_2 \Rightarrow \frac{V_2}{V_1} = \frac{p_1}{p_2}, \\
 & = p_3 V_3 \Rightarrow p_2 = p_3 \left(\frac{V_2}{V_1}\right)^\gamma \Rightarrow \frac{V_2}{V_1} = \frac{p_1}{p_3} \left(\frac{V_2}{V_1}\right)^\gamma \\
 & = T_2 V_2^{\gamma-1} \Rightarrow \left(\frac{V_2}{V_1}\right)^{\gamma-1} = \frac{T_2}{T_1} \Rightarrow \frac{V_2}{V_1} = \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma-1}} \\
 & t_1 \simeq \sqrt{\frac{2h_0}{g}} \cdot \frac{S}{s} = \sqrt{\frac{2 \cdot 0,8}{9,8}} \cdot \frac{8 \cdot 10^{-3}}{10^{-4}} = 3 \\
 & = \frac{S}{\sqrt{S^2 - s^2}} \sqrt{2g h_0}, \\
 & = s v_2(h_0) t_1 = \frac{s S}{\sqrt{S^2 - s^2}} \sqrt{2g h_0} \sqrt{\frac{2h_0}{g}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{S}}{S} \\
 & S h_0 = 2V_0 = 2 \cdot 8 \cdot 10^{-2} \cdot 0,8 = 12,8 \cdot 10 \\
 & I_2 = -K \frac{m_1 m_2}{r_{12}^2}, F_{12} = -K \frac{m_1 m_2}{r_{12}^2} \cdot \frac{\vec{r}_{12}}{r_{12}}, \vec{F} \\
 & E_p = E_{p_{\max}} \Rightarrow \sin^2\left(3t_p + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = 1 \\
 & = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi\right); n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \\
 & t_p = \frac{\pi}{3} \left(n + \frac{1}{6}\right); n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \\
 & E_c = E_{c_{\max}} \Rightarrow \cos^2\left(3t_c + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = 1 \Rightarrow \cos\left(3\right. \\
 & = \pm 1 = \cos(n\pi) \Rightarrow t_c = \frac{\pi}{3} \left(n - \frac{1}{3}\right) \\
 & \frac{dx}{1+x^2} + \int \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} dx = J + \sqrt{1+x^2} \\
 & - \int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{x^2} + 1}} = - \int \frac{d\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{x^2} + 1}} = \\
 & I = \sqrt{1+x^2} - \ln \frac{\sqrt{1+x^2} + 1}{x} + C \\
 & \cdot Q_{41} = v C T_1 (1 - \epsilon^{1/2}) + v C_V T_1 (\mathcal{H} - 1), \\
 & \cdot Q_{34} = v C_V T_2 (\mathcal{H} - 1) + v C T_4 (1 - \epsilon^{1/2}), \\
 & \frac{1}{2}, \frac{T_2}{T_3} = \mathcal{H}, \frac{T_3}{T_4} = \epsilon^{1/2}, \frac{T_1}{T_4} = \mathcal{H},
 \end{aligned}$$

Read the article

Philanthropy and the AI race:

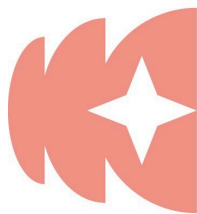
There was [a really interesting article in the Chronicle of Philanthropy this month](#) on the role philanthropy has played historically in the development of AI, and the role it is playing now in developing ethical approaches, safety measures and new governance models as the technology continues to grow rapidly.

The piece makes a particularly important point about how, in the wake of OpenAI's push to abandon its nonprofit status (as discussed above), there is a real need to be wary about philanthropic funding and nonprofit structures being misused as a way of getting cheap, low risk early-stage capital for things that would be too hard find investment for (by people who always intend to commercialise them at some point).

[Read the article](#)

Launch of new Public-Private-Philanthropic Partnership on AI

This month also saw Paris host the major AI Action Summit, which brought together world leaders, tech industry titans, academics and (some) civil society representatives to discuss the possibility of global alignment on the development of AI. That didn't seem to be especially forthcoming, but amidst all the jockeying for position among countries and companies in the race to get an AI advantage, there was also [the announcement of a new \\$400 million initiative called "Current AI", led by the government of France in partnership with a number of companies and philanthropic foundations](#). The organisation hopes to raise more funds (\$2.5 billion over the next 5 years) and aims to "expand global access to high-quality public and private datasets; invest in open-source tools and infrastructure to make AI more transparent and secure; and develop systems to measure AI's social and environmental impact."



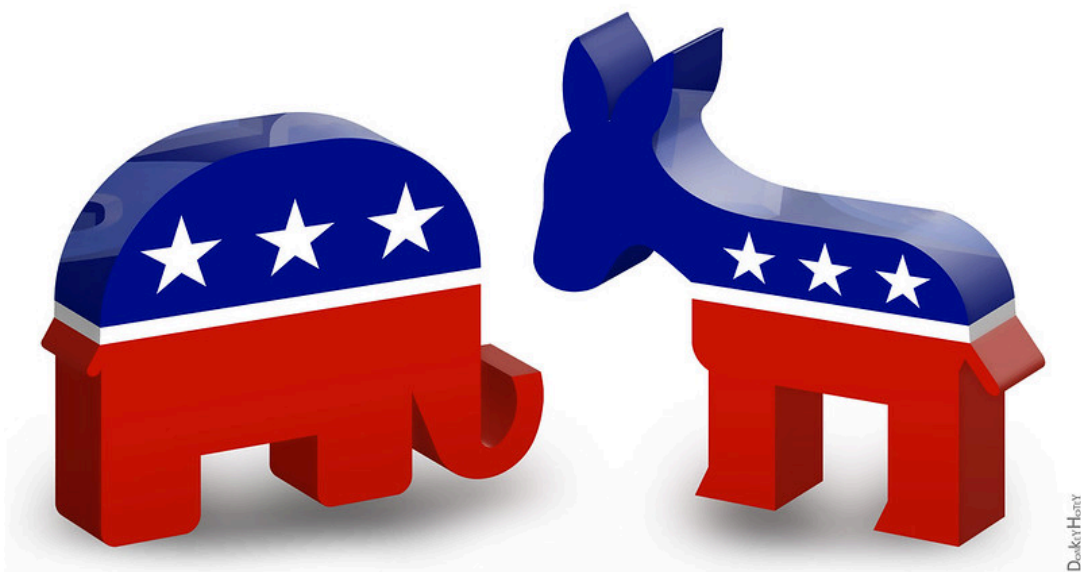
Current AI

[Read the article](#)

Party politics and charitable giving:

I spotted news from Kings College London this month about [an interesting paper co-authored by one of their academics, which looks at the charitable giving habits of people in the US relative to their political](#)

[affiliation](#). The [paper found that people are likely to give significantly more when the party they support is not in power](#). The authors suggest that when people support the incumbent government, they are more likely to have faith in public spending and thus put less emphasis on philanthropic giving; whilst those whose favoured party is in opposition are more likely to mistrust government and place higher value in their own agency. In the context of an increasingly divided political sphere, and when there is significant debate about the relative roles of government and private philanthropy, the insights in this paper are really interesting.



[Image by DonkeyHoney, CC BY 2.0](#)

[Read the article](#)

[Read the paper](#)

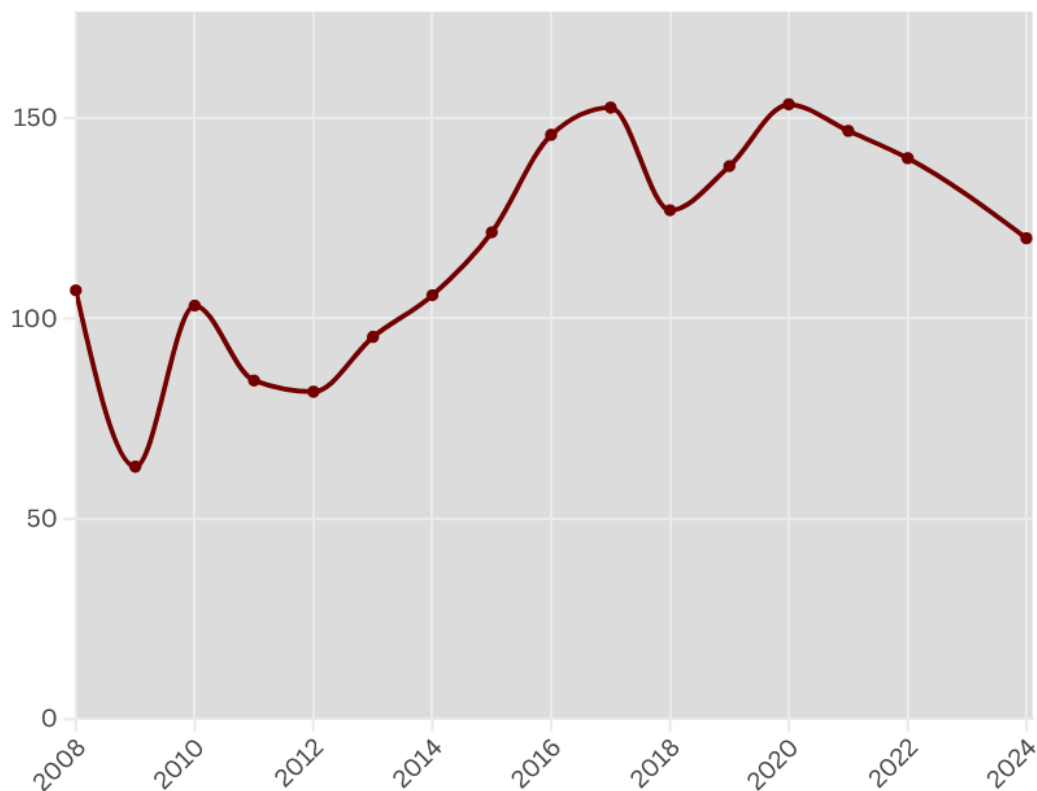
Chinese Philanthropy down?:

There was [a fascinating story in *The Diplomat* this month about philanthropy in China](#). It suggests that the rapid growth in charitable giving in China over recent years may have come to a halt amid wider economic challenges in the country and ongoing charity scandals that are harming levels of public trust. The article admits that conclusive data are hard to come by, but highlights figures published recently by the

Amity Foundation (one of China's largest charitable foundations) suggest that there may have been a *14.3 per cent fall in donations between 2022 and 2024*. The piece notes that this accords with other figures from the China Philanthropy Times and from corporate giant TenCent, which suggest that both major donor giving and mass market online giving (which is a huge driver of overall giving in China) are down. A really interesting read.

Total Charitable Giving in China

in billions of yuan



Source: Charity Blue Book, Amity Foundation • Data for 2024 & 2022 are estimates

[Image by Paul Farmer, CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

[Read the article](#)

Philanthropy in Singapore booming

By way of contrast, but still sticking with Asian philanthropy, an [article in CNBC this month highlighted the remarkable growth of Singapore as a hub for philanthropy in the region](#). This is being driven by a wider boom

in family offices (which have increased ten-fold in number in the last 6 years, from 200 in 2019 to more than 2,000 currently). Clearly many wealthy people in Asia are being tempted to situate their family office in Singapore and to do their philanthropy from there (helped, no doubt, by the generous tax breaks offered by the Singaporean government – which allow for a [100% tax relief on some qualifying overseas donations by family offices](#)).



[Read the article](#)

EA in Cambridge:

There was an interesting [investigative report this month in the Cambridge University student newspaper looking at the influence of Effective Altruism on students over recent years](#). The piece is fairly even-handed, carrying comment from people who have found EA an enriching and intellectually stimulating part of their lives, as well as from those who have concerns about its sometimes “cult-like” approach and the way the movement uses the significant financial resources at its disposal.



[Read the article](#)

Opening Gates:

Bill Gates is currently very much on a publicity tour for his new memoir *Source Code*, and as part of that there was [an interesting interview with him on the BBC](#). There's not a huge amount directly about philanthropy in it, but there is a lot about Gates's upbringing and how his world-view has been shaped, and given that he is undoubtedly one of the major figures of late 20th/early 21st century philanthropy, that stuff is pretty interesting IMHO.



[Image by Jurvetson, CC BY 2.0](#)

[Read the article](#)

A new voice in UK philanthropy

At a slightly different level to Bill Gates (I'm sure she wouldn't mind me saying!), there was [an interesting interview in *The Times* this month with philanthropist Becky Holmes](#). She and her sister Lauren have been jointly running their family foundation (the Helvellyn Foundation) for the last few years and already gained some prominence in the world of UK philanthropy for their willingness to talk about their giving and to relate it to wider concerns about climate, social justice and wealth inequality.

Hopefully articles like this will encourage more existing and aspiring philanthropists in the UK to follow suit.

[Read the interview](#)

Giving in the UK: HNWI's and Christians

There were a couple of interesting reports on giving in the UK out this month. [Firstly, there was a report from CAF, in partnership with the wealth research specialists Altrata, looking at High Net Worth giving in the UK.](#) This estimates that HNWI people gave £7.96 billion in 2023, in addition to the £13.9 billion given by the general public (as calculated in CAF's UK Giving research), which would mean that levels of giving in the UK are significantly higher than previously thought. Despite that, there is still plenty of room to develop HNWI giving further – if HNWI people gave just 1% of their investable assets away, the report estimates that would equate to £19.9 billion. Of course, the difficult question is *how* to boost giving to those kinds of levels, as despite various efforts over the years levels of giving in the UK have remained stubbornly hard to shift. (Which is not meant to be a suggestion that we shouldn't bother, but just a reminder that it is unlikely to happen overnight and that it will take plenty of concerted effort).

There was also [a report from the Christian giving organisation Stewardship](#), looking at trends in giving by Christians, which found that levels of religious commitment are a strong indicator of levels of giving – with “committed Christians” (those who attend church at least once a week and read the Bible at least once a week) giving almost five times the UK monthly average. (Other research has found similar trends for other religions). The report also found that the majority of donations from those surveyed went to Christian causes (£98 out of a monthly average of £124), and – intriguingly – that younger donors (in the 18-24 bracket) give significantly more as a percentage of income than older donors. (This is almost certainly because a far higher proportion of them are committed givers, and also because they are earning less – so any amount they give will represent a higher percentage of income. But it is still interesting!)

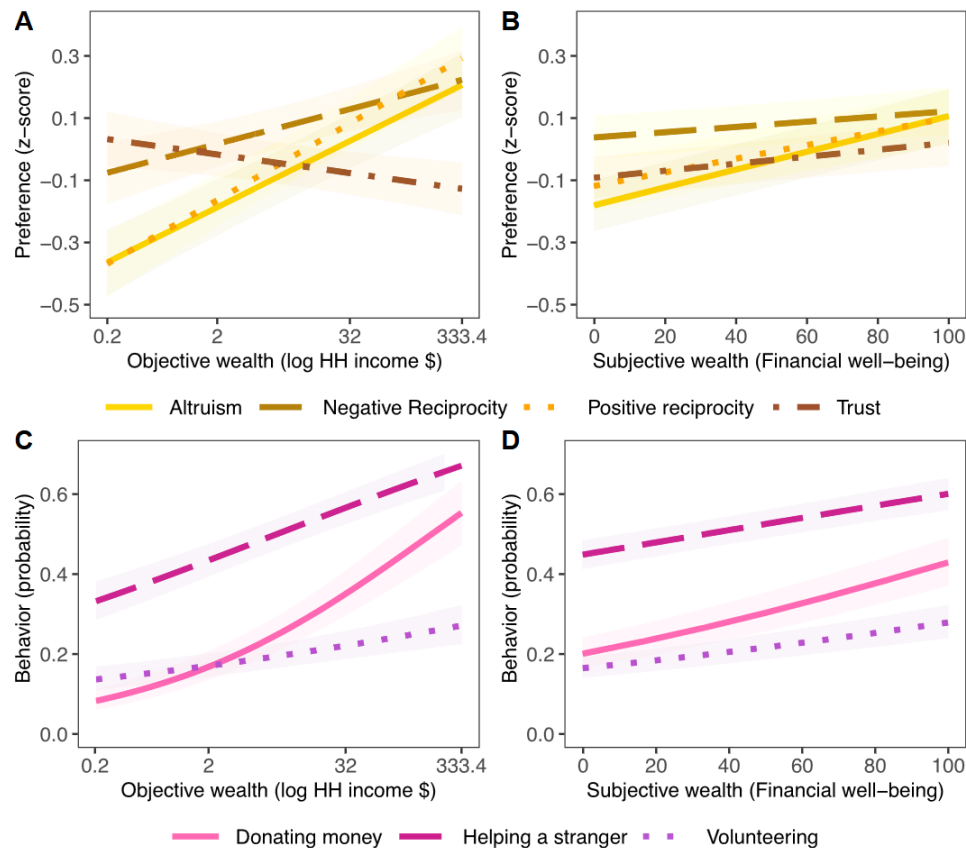


Read the CAF report

Read the Stewardship report

People who feel better off are more prosocial

I spotted [a report about an interesting new paper which looks at the relationship between income, subjective financial wellbeing and prosocial behaviour](#). The researchers analysed data from the Global Preferences Survey and the Gallup World Poll to look for patterns, and found that those who are better-off (and feel better-off) are consistently more likely to give to charity, volunteer or help a stranger.



[Read the article](#)

[Read the paper](#)

AND FINALLY: Music and philanthropy

I thought I'd treat you to a 3-part "and finally" section this month, as there were a couple of nice stories about music and philanthropy that caught my eye.

First up was [this announcement I spotted about the 10th annual Dead of Winter festival near Phoenix, Arizona](#), which promises to "bring heavy metal and philanthropy together for youth music". As a lifelong fan of music that a lot of people would consider unlistenable noise, I was heartened to see bands with excellent metal names like "Abhorrent Rebirth" and "Sanguine Imperator" showing their community spirit by

getting involved in a free concert to raise money for music equipment for local schools.

SHOW | FREE SHOW | FREE SHOW | FREE SH



Next up was [a piece in Dazed](#) about “[the problem with celebrity philanthropy](#)”. TBH the central argument of the article is a slightly muddled mixture of various existing criticisms, but I did learn about the now-established tradition at Drake’s concerts for fans to bring along signs with their requests for money and compete to be the one lucky winner Drake picks out that night. (Which the article rather marvellously calls the “Drake-A-Wish Foundation”). And it is Fully Weird, let me tell you.

Then finally, since the last day of February marks the official launch of Lisa from BlackPink’s solo album (which is a BIG day in my household, let me tell you), I thought I would round things off with this nice piece from *Inside Philanthropy* on “[how the richest KPop stars give](#)”.

케이팝 KPOP

[Read the article about the metal festival](#)

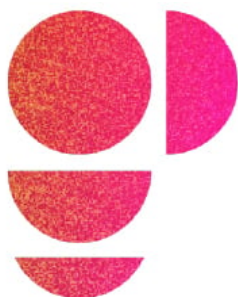
[Read the article about Drake](#)

[Read the article about Kpop](#)

Right. There we are then. As ever, that was a lot longer than planned, but hopefully you enjoyed it. Back next month for more of the same.

Best,

Rhodri



**Why
Philanthropy
Matters**

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