

# Fundraising Pack

## PBI UK

| <b>Contents:</b>                    | <b>Page:</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Who we are</b>                   | <b>2</b>     |
| <b>Where our projects are based</b> | <b>3</b>     |
| <b>Activists' stories</b>           | <b>6</b>     |
| <b>Getting involved</b>             | <b>7</b>     |
| <b>Why we need you</b>              | <b>8</b>     |

# Who we are

**Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a human rights charity that promotes non-violent peace building solutions in situations of violent conflict and repression.**

**It offers a unique way of standing up against human rights abuses by providing unarmed protective companions to individuals, organisations, and communities threatened with violence and human rights abuses.**

## We are:

- A non-governmental organisation, struggling for the recognition of human rights.
- A non-hierarchical international organisation built on consensus decision-making.

## Our guiding principle is:

- *Non-partisanship, non-violence and non-interference* in the work of those we accompany.

PBI's strength and legitimacy lies in its belief in that local people can resolve their own conflicts. We ensure that all within a community are heard and can participate.

## We are not:

- A political organisation. We do not support any political party.
- Human shields.

## Offering an alternative to violence

### **Q Does protective accompaniment work?**

**A** Many of those we have accompanied have told us that without us, at best they would not be able to continue their work, and at worst they might be forced into exile or even killed.

PBI builds up public support for human rights defenders and peace workers. It networks with other organisations, including Amnesty International, to raise awareness of human rights violations and promote non-violent alternatives.

- PBI acts as a reminder to governments of their obligations under international human rights law.
- In 2001 PBI won the Martin Ennals Award and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Whenever there is conflict, repression and abuse of rights, there are always brave people who fight for the dignity of their communities and their lands. PBI exists solely to support and protect these threatened people, reducing their fear and encouraging them by shining a spotlight on their struggles.

## Where our projects are based

### COLOMBIA

PBI's Colombia project began in 1994 following an invitation from human rights and trade union organisations inside the country. There are four PBI teams working in some of the most dangerous regions of the country.



James Savage and Sirirra Garrio 2002. Photo: PBI archives.

***“Because you can’t choose your memories ... the sensation of suffocation you feel from the fear of the people you accompany cannot be forgotten. On the worst night, [some of them] go to bed with PBI’s number dialled on their mobile so that they only have to press one key if something happens”***

James Savage, UK volunteer

**Q How dangerous is the work of PBI?**

**Q** The situations PBI works in are risky ones. Each project has strict safety and security guidelines. Volunteers are not only backed up by the team on the ground, but also by a network of international support made up of embassies, the UN, MPs, Lords, law societies and individuals. No human rights defender has been killed whilst they have had PBI by their side, nor has any PBI staff member or volunteer come to serious harm. Those we accompany often say that they owe their lives to us.

## MEXICO

In Mexico the majority of requests for accompaniment originate from the southern state of Guerrero, where the level of risk for human rights defenders is highest. PBI has worked in Guerrero for the past 5 years, and is still the only international human rights organisation with a permanent presence in the area.

For details of the Mexican project, see the project website:  
[www.peacebrigades.org/mexico](http://www.peacebrigades.org/mexico)



***“It is really exciting to see how the PBI grassroots approach works, and to feel how as a citizen you can play a very special role to support local initiatives without interfering in their work.”***

Susi Bascon

PBI volunteer Susi Bascon in Mexico with Tia Radita taken from PBI archives

## GUATEMALA

Guatemala was one of the first projects to be set up by PBI in 1983. They left Guatemala in 1999 after the Peace Accords were signed in 1996. This was expected by local human rights defenders to usher in a new and more peaceful phase. However, by 2000 the human rights situation had again deteriorated, and many Guatemalan organisations asked for PBI to return. The Project re-opened in 2003.

Activist demonstrating in Guatemala.  
Photo: PBI archives.



***“I get the opportunity to meet and work with a wide range of interesting and inspiring people, and to see the world from a completely different angle. And to really get to know another country.”***

Helen Woodcock, UK volunteer in Guatemala

## INDONESIA

PBI has been in Indonesia since 1999, when a team was invited in to protect an organisation working in camps for internally displaced people. This was based around the border between West and East Timor. Since the tsunami, PBI has revised its strategic plan and is providing protective services and peace-building activities in Banda Aceh, Jakarta and Papua.

For details of the Indonesian project, see the project website:  
[www.peacebrigades.org/indonesia](http://www.peacebrigades.org/indonesia)

***“Actually doing the accompaniment, meeting and being with the activists while they work was a real highlight for me. We accompany an organisation called Rehabilitation Action for Torture Victims. They provide counselling for victims of torture. It is amazing that an organisation that does counselling can be at the receiving end of such threats.”***

Lucy Carver, UK volunteer

## NEPAL

Peace Brigades International has launched a new initiative to support peace activists and human rights defenders in war-torn Nepal. The project was developed in response to aggression by the Nepalese security forces and Maoist insurgents, and requests by local organisations for an international peace presence.

For details of the Nepal project, see the project website:  
[www.peacebrigades.org/nepal](http://www.peacebrigades.org/nepal)



Ratma N Aceh with Lucy – On protective accompaniment.  
PBI archives

# Activist's stories

## Colombia

*“The accompaniment of PBI is integral. We have men and women from PBI physically accompanying us day and night, every month and year in year out. These are men and women who have shown us that their presence is a weapon. They have led us to understand that accompaniment is also a form of moral support. They have shown us that denouncing the situation internationally is another way of feeling the pain of others. They have shown us that we are capable of sitting down to evaluate our situation and examine and recognise the mistakes we make.*

*We’ve cried many times but we’ve also laughed many times when we managed to escape death’s clutches. We’ve been capable of escaping the grasps of a totalitarian model that threatens individual and collective rights every day.”*



PBI Volunteer with Otilia Eugenio in Ayutia, Guerrero. Photo PBI

## Mexico

*“I want accompaniment from PBI because it helps me a lot to know that I am not alone, that there are people in other countries that are interested in my situation, in the problems that indigenous peoples face. With your accompaniment I feel safer. I can do more of the things I want to do. The truth is that I am worried something will happen to me, my family or member of my organisation.”*

***Extract from Interview with Otilia Eugenio, Manuel Organisation of the Indigenous Me’phaa People (Opim)***



# Getting involved

There are many ways you can contribute to this vital work. The UK office is involved in many activities such as advocacy, fundraising and outreach. PBI relies on volunteers like you to fight human rights abuses and often to help save lives. Volunteering not only gives you a unique feeling of satisfaction, because everything you do for PBI counts, but you also gain work experience and transferable skills.

## Organising an event

Organising your own event is just one way of helping PBI's work – and it will look good on your CV. Running your own event will need a lot of planning. You will need to think about the following points.

### Who can I get to help me?

Get a group of friends and colleagues around you. It works better if you can share the load. You could even promote your union society at the same time as PBI!

### What do I have?

Resources can be the key to successful fundraising. How can you involve your union, department or club?

Be sure that all your helpers know about PBI and what we do before you start. It is also a good idea to decide before the event how much you would like to raise. This gives you a goal to work towards.

Organising an event can be great fun as well as satisfying. Decide what type of event you would like to have. Think about how much time and what resources you have. Think too about your own likes and dislikes. There is no point organising a sporting event if you're not interested in sport! Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Show a Latin American film such as *City of God* along with a PBI Colombia film – charge an entrance fee
- Hold a debate. Human rights are a contentious issue and university students love a good debate.
- Have a themed night.
- Everybody likes to party. Salsa dancing is popular now but you don't have to restrict yourself to a Latin theme. Discos are popular too.
- Set up a stall with leaflets and posters.
- Use the media to make sure the event is well publicised. Use your student media and/or local press to advertise your event. Inform your communications officer and ask them to help you.
- Ask for the PBI guide to writing a press release to maximise the chances of getting publicity.

PBI volunteers at a UK festival fundraising. PBI archives



# Why we need you

PBI's work relies on a large number of committed volunteers, both in the field and at home. The more people know about us, the better international protection works. We could not do this vital work without people like you to help raise money and awareness and to join us in the struggle for a better world.

**Q Where does PBI get its funding from?**

A In 2004, PBI's main sources were: 41% governments, 57% development agencies, churches and foundations. The remaining 2% was raised by the 17 national PBI branches.

## Your money in action:

- £10 supports a PBI volunteer in the field for one day.
- £50 covers a whole month of the travel involved in accompanying human rights defenders at work.
- £100 provides essential training for a volunteer accompanier.
- £500 buys a return ticket for a volunteer.
- £1,000 provides a satellite phone for a team in remote location

## PBI contact details

Feel free to contact the office for help and resources. We are always interested to hear of your plans.

For more details please contact us:

**T:** 020 7281 5370  
**E:** [outreach@peacebrigades.org.uk](mailto:outreach@peacebrigades.org.uk)  
**W:** [www.peacebrigades.org](http://www.peacebrigades.org)