



ASPEN
INSTITUTE
UK

Annual Review 2022

Chairman's Report

I'd like to start this year-end review from the Aspen Institute in the UK with thanks. So many people and organisations have placed their trust in us, supporting us in a shared belief that dialogue can promote understanding – an essential step to repairing the political, social, and cultural divisions that exist in the UK. In what has been a divisive year, Aspen UK has remained implacably neutral, inviting people to its public and leadership programmes from across political divides, from different parts of the UK, and from a broad range of communities and disciplines.

We are still a young organisation, and in 2022 have continued to build a strong community and a growing audience across the UK, and beyond. We enjoy using the unmatched convening power of the Aspen Institutes around the world in furthering our mission in the UK.

2022 was also the year where we launched a much-needed Rising Leaders Fellowship, empowering some of the UK's finest, high potential leaders. They join a community where people understand, respect, and celebrate differences, and learn from each other. Within a few years, this Fellowship will create one of the largest alumni networks of any leadership programme in the UK, and the first few cohorts have been inspiring and engaged.

We are aware none of our work would have been possible without the unwavering support of our partners, Fellows, and participants. Our gratitude is immense, and we look towards 2023 with much enthusiasm.

Ed Williams,
Chairman of the Aspen UK
Board of Trustees



CEO's Report

2022 has given Aspen UK's community much to celebrate, and much to consider.

We held our first in-person events and seminars for more than two and a half years; we started new partnerships and consolidated existing ones; and we launched a bold and necessary large-scale Fellowship for young leaders from across the UK.

But we also witnessed some of the most chaotic political events in our country's history, a cost-of-living crisis, a looming winter of discontent, and a time when the normal societal contracts in the UK seem to be breaking down. All of this makes our work and mission more important than ever.

Our non-partisan approach, either in private convenings or public talks, helps thought leaders discuss critical issues we face today and create meaningful solutions. We see dialogue as a means of promoting understanding – an essential step to repairing the political, social, and cultural divisions that exist in the UK. We believe that better dialogue can help deepen understanding of current issues. We don't shy away from disagreement – it can be thought-provoking and constructive, rather than threatening and polarising.



Leadership Programmes

Leadership seminars are at the heart of Aspen UK's events, and it was joyous to hold our first in-person event after two years of virtual seminars. We were hosted in the University of Wales Trinity St David's campus in Lampeter, as part of a new partnership with the university. We welcomed a typically diverse group of participants from across the UK, and look forward to many more seminars in Wales (and in other parts of the UK) in the years ahead.

The Aspen UK Rising Leaders Fellowship was launched to much acclaim this summer. It is designed to help its participants operate effectively in a world that is becoming increasingly diverse and polarised.

We've been delighted at the response to the Fellowship, and the note below was typical of the plaudits it received. Since the programme's launch we have welcomed a serial entrepreneur, a taxi driver, a conservationist, and chief of staff to a senior member of the Cabinet. And many more of the UK's finest high potential leaders.

This community is already growing in size and enthusiasm – and you can see more [here](#).



It's totally refreshing as a concept and the sort of thing that is unparalleled as an opportunity to prepare rising leaders. For me it is what this programme 'isn't' rather than what it 'is'. For example I love the fact it has no barrier to entry and also that there is no particular type of job role that is being targeted. Having read a news article this week about the further divisions being stoked in the US and the UK, it's clear the world needs this programme.

Public Programming



Our public engagement work continues to expand, and in 2022 we held a number of events covering a typically broad range of subjects. We hosted a consistently diverse range of speakers, with a growing roster of partner organisations. Aspen UK always brings a wide range of expertise to our events, representing the diversity of thought and experience in the UK.

We hosted live conversations with young Ukrainians, and young Russians; looked into the integrity of the well-being industry; and questioned the role of nuclear in the energy transition. We have also been looking at why mistrust is so pervasive in the UK and how trust can be re-built.

The Aspen UK Podcast continues to thrive – and serves as an opportunity to reach wide audiences who can't attend our events live. You can find them [here](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.

**18,000+ podcast
downloads with an audience
from 40 plus countries**

**Celebrated 100 podcast
episodes**



Thank you for your interest, support, and shared conviction.

**Penny Richards,
CEO of Aspen UK**



Looking Ahead

Rising Leaders Fellowship

2023 will be the year when we consolidate the wonderful success that saw the launch and establishment of the Rising Leaders Fellowship in 2022. Aspen UK has already accepted 150 exceptional individuals into the Fellowship. By September 2023, 250 people will have participated in a two-day Aspen UK seminar and joined the network of Rising Fellows in the UK. We will host the first annual conference at the US Embassy in London in Spring 2023 - enabling the Fellows to meet in person for the first time.

Fellowship so far...

Over 250 nominations for Rising Leaders Fellowship

75 new Fellows in 3 months



Each Fellow will be able to join monthly discussions on leadership, with inspiring leaders from across different sectors and parts of the UK. We are looking forward to holding such sessions in early 2023 with senior figures in the media, agriculture, medicine and the arts.

We continue to welcome nominations for talented young leaders from across the UK who will benefit from and contribute to the Fellowship community. They will join an ever-increasing group of people who understand, respect, and celebrate differences, and learn from each other.

Our Fellows at a Glance

We have already welcomed people from a breadth of backgrounds and professions, including...

- From 40 different parts of the UK
- 19 company founders
- 17 different nationalities
- 15 CEOs
- 5 doctors
- 3 theatre producers
- 1 ballerina
- 1 head coach from a top football club

Leadership seminars



Aspen UK seminars bring together experienced leaders from across geographical and generational spectrums, and from corporate, political, creative, academic, and third sectors, to discuss, reflect, and debate. These seminars provide space for attendees to learn with and from other influential leaders from different worlds and beliefs, and to build new professional and personal networks.

They also serve as a foundation for discussions on potentially sensitive or polarising topics. Our seminars take place in-person over several days, and in remote locations, to enable participants to be fully focused, leaving their day-jobs behind. Our seminars are unique experiences which foster genuine conversations and allow for flexibility, creativity, and diversity.

In 2023 seminars will take place in Cambridge in March and in Lampeter, Wales, in June and October. We expect to add others to the list. We look forward to welcoming a broad range of leaders for thought-provoking discussions as well as cultural events and other activities.

Partnerships

We have relished our partnership with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and will announce similar alliances with organisations keen to host Aspen UK seminars.



Public Engagement Programmes

We look forward to continuing partnerships with organisations that share our values. We have enjoyed two years of successful and timely policy discussions with our partners at the EU Delegation to the UK, and 2023 will offer more opportunities for in-person gatherings. We'll cover an array of topics, from disinformation to sustainability. We will invite you to three more webinars with the Khalili Foundation on designing our world to foster better intercultural diversity.

We will be concluding our Trust Dialogue series with Edelman UK with a conversation looking at trust in business with Lord John Browne of Madingley.

Beyond our partnership programming, we will continue engaging Aspen UK audiences with iterations of our 'Future of...' series. These look at the prospects for different countries at pivotal moments.

In 2022...



Held 30+ events, both in-person & online

Over 25 partnership events

Speakers at a Glance

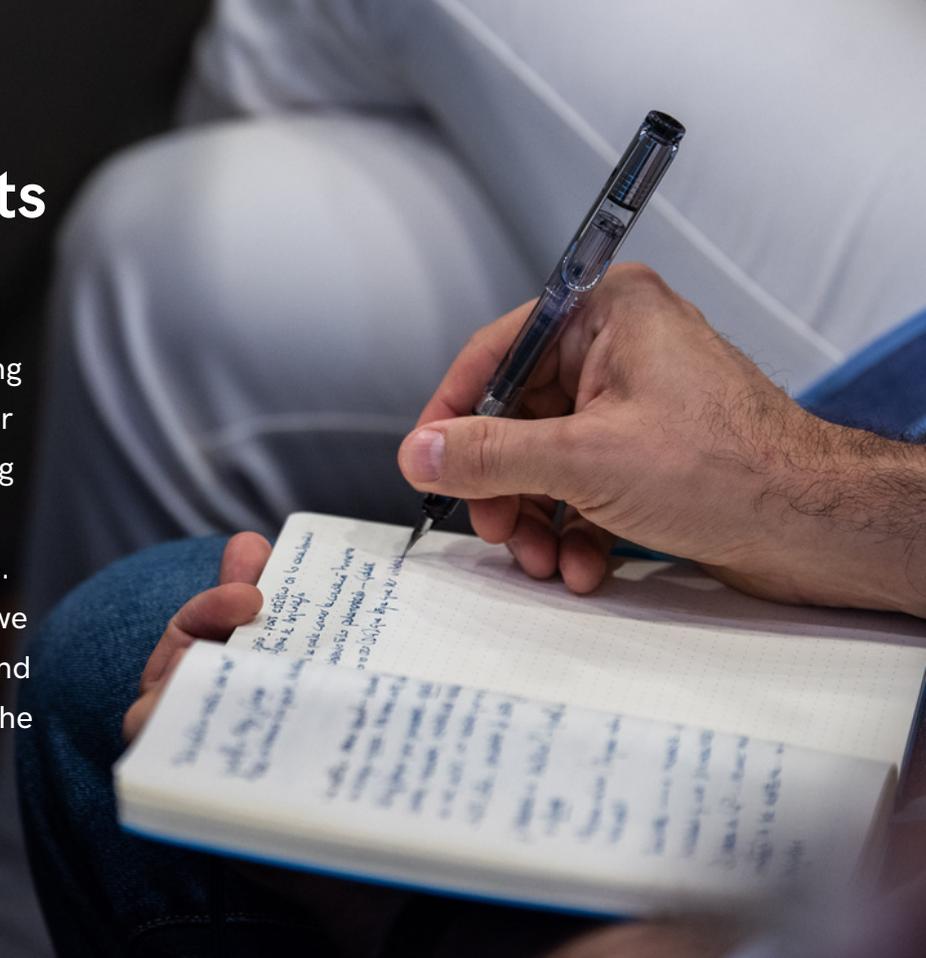


In 2022, we were joined by over 150 speakers from 15 countries and with a fascinating range of expertise...

- 50 plus academics
- 20 plus CEOs and Chairs
- 12 Ambassadors and diplomats
- 10 MPs and Members of the House of Lords
- 5 directors of museums and cultural centres
- 2 nuclear scientists
- 2 fashion designers
- 1 farmer
- 1 Ukrainian soldier

Upcoming Projects

We will be announcing several partnerships soon. We are partnering with Mars for a second season of our Sustainability Series, which will bring together diverse perspectives on critical challenges in climate change. In partnership with Liberty Global, we will be exploring our digital future and what the metaverse might hold for the UK and global society.



We will partner with the Woolf Institute, hosting a series of panel discussions as part of their Commission on the Integration of Refugees. This is looking at the refugee and asylum process in the UK, and our public conversations will, as always, include voices from across the political spectrum and across the country.

Aspen UK will also continue to organise and co-host private roundtable events for companies keen to understand an issue through the eyes of policy makers, experts, and their clients. These roundtables help our partners understand the impact of a particular issue or challenge, and explore possible solutions. Many will be just that – private convenings. But some will foster reports or policy recommendations, and we look forward to inviting you to take part in the launches, or to read the resulting papers.



Finally, we are hoping to reveal a major conference to occur in the autumn of 2023 – more information to come!

With thanks

Thanks to members of the Aspen UK Council, Aspen UK Fellows, and everyone else who has supported us this year.

A lot of our success in 2022 has been thanks to these partners, and we are hugely grateful.

Special thanks to:



APHORISM FOUNDATION



Aspen UK is always interested in partnering with individuals, companies and organisations which share our vision and want to support one of the most respected non-profit organisations globally. In doing so they will help Aspen UK build on its successes, and help us bridge divides and forge creative solutions to critical issues.



info@aspenuk.org
aspenuk.org

©2022 Aspen Institute UK. All Rights Reserved
Registered charity number: 1186896