

International Network of Street Papers

INSP is a Glasgow-based charity with a global reach.



We believe that everyone deserves a home and the chance to earn a dignified income for themselves and their families.

What are street papers?

We all know *The Big Issue*, right?

- Street papers, including *The Big Issue*, provide opportunities for people experiencing homelessness & poverty the chance to earn a dignified income.
- Sellers of street papers, known as ‘vendors’, normally purchase the papers at a price to sell on the streets at a profit that they keep.
- Street papers internationally operate as separate charities and social enterprises, providing a wide wrap-around support for people in vulnerable situations.





Our Mission

To support the global street paper network to alleviate poverty and build a movement for social change.

Dual purpose: **membership support** (we are a community like u3a) and the **INSP News Service**.

A very brief history to INSP:

- **Street News** formed in 1989 in New York as world's first street paper sold by homeless people.
- The **Big Issue** was launched in 1991 in the UK by Gordon Roddick and John Bird in response to the growing number of rough sleepers on the streets of London.
- Development of **international department at The Big Issue**, with first meeting of European papers in Brussels on February 1994 (12 street papers represented).
- In July 1994, Big issue agreed to finance **the International Network of Street Papers (INSP)**. First INSP conference in 1995 in London (pictured).
- INSP now an **independent charity**, operating as a **membership body** and **international news service** for street papers.
- With an HQ in Glasgow, we support our network of **239 journalists & editors** and now have a membership of **93 street papers** across **35 different countries**. And our membership is growing.



INSP's first conference in London (1995)

Who we are



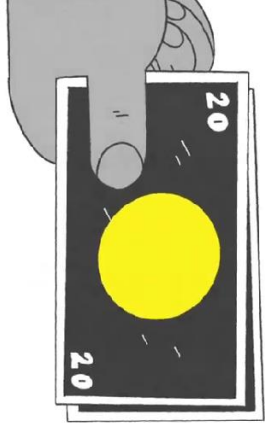
Small team of 5 in Glasgow within *The Big Issue* offices:

- **Mike Findlay** – CEO
- **Tony Inglis** – INSP News Editor
- **Colleen Tait** – Membership & Communications Manager
- **Vicky Tierney** – Relationship & Fundraising Manager
- **Siddra Mir** – Administrative & Support Officer.

And 1 US Regional Director, **Israel Bayer**, sponsored by *Real Change* (Seattle Street Paper).



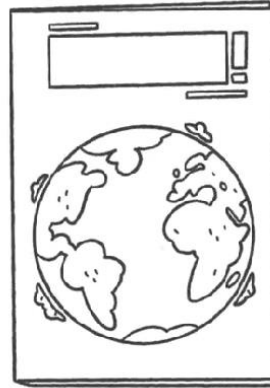
93 Street Papers



£24.2M in the
pockets of vendors
every year



35 countries



4.6 Million
readers worldwide



20,500 vendors earn a
income by selling street papers
each year



Supporting 239 independent
journalists and editors

Street Papers Provide

Housing
Support

Socialisation

Food Packages
and energy
vouchers

Form Filling

Employability
Skills

Sign posting to
other agencies



Mental Health
Support

A chance to
earn an
income

The
opportunity
for their
stories to be
heard

Why Street Papers?

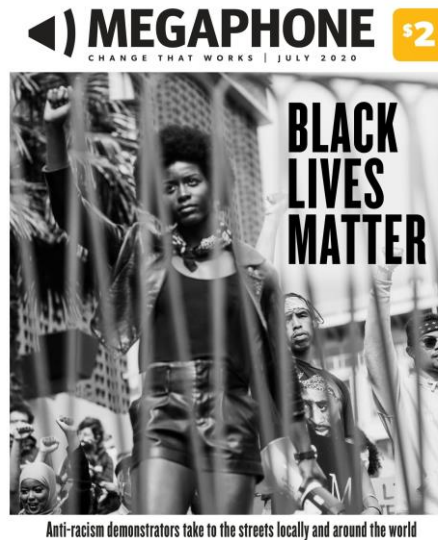
Changing *lives*

“The cycle of homelessness is real... walking in that door (of the Big Issue), getting asked your first name and do you want to work? The power in that one sentence did so much for me”.



Changing *attitudes*

“Street paper journalism is thorough and sharp and grounded in the social change required to end poverty and homelessness in our cities”

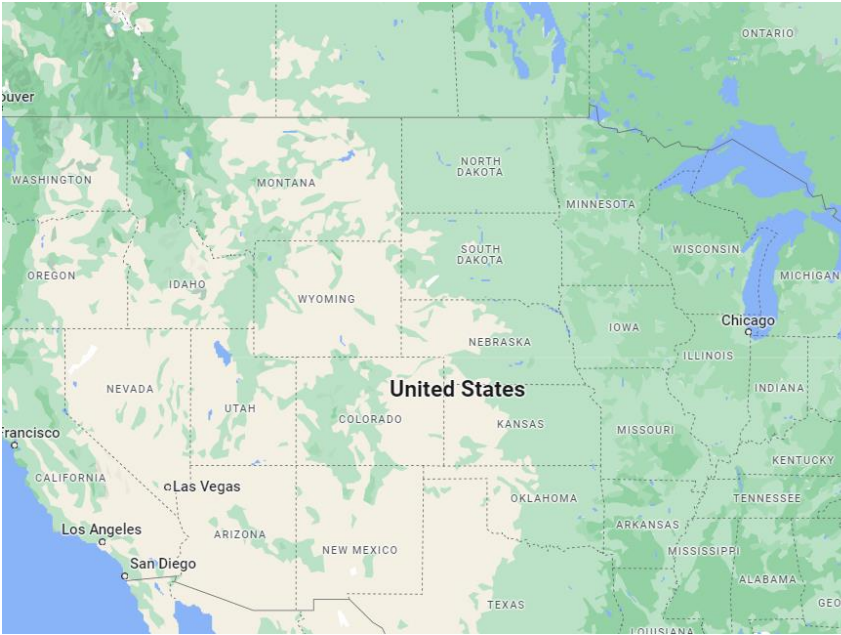


Changing *society*

“Street papers shape the cities we love and the values of the world in which we want to live”



Building Community





Hub

News Service &
translations

Member Communications
/Newsletter

How do we build community?

Social media

One-to-one
meetings

Membership surveys &
sharing best practice

Events & meetings

INSP Summit – Milan, 12-15 Sept, 2022

In partnership with street paper, *Scarp de tenis*, based in Milan, INSP hosted its 10th Summit after a 3-year break due to Covid-19.

The Summit is a chance for our members - CEOs, journalists, editors and street paper staff - to come together, share, connect, learn and celebrate Street Paper achievements from the past 2-years. For many street papers operating in isolation with limited resources, the Summit provides vital inspiration, motivation, ideas and support.

In addition to a number of international speakers, the Summit included several workshops, training and breakout sessions.

Previous summits have been held in:



Athens



Melbourne



Seattle

“Great way to be inspired with new approaches, models and concepts of working in the street paper field” Nikoleta Kosovac, LiceULice Serbia

120
attendees

25+
countries

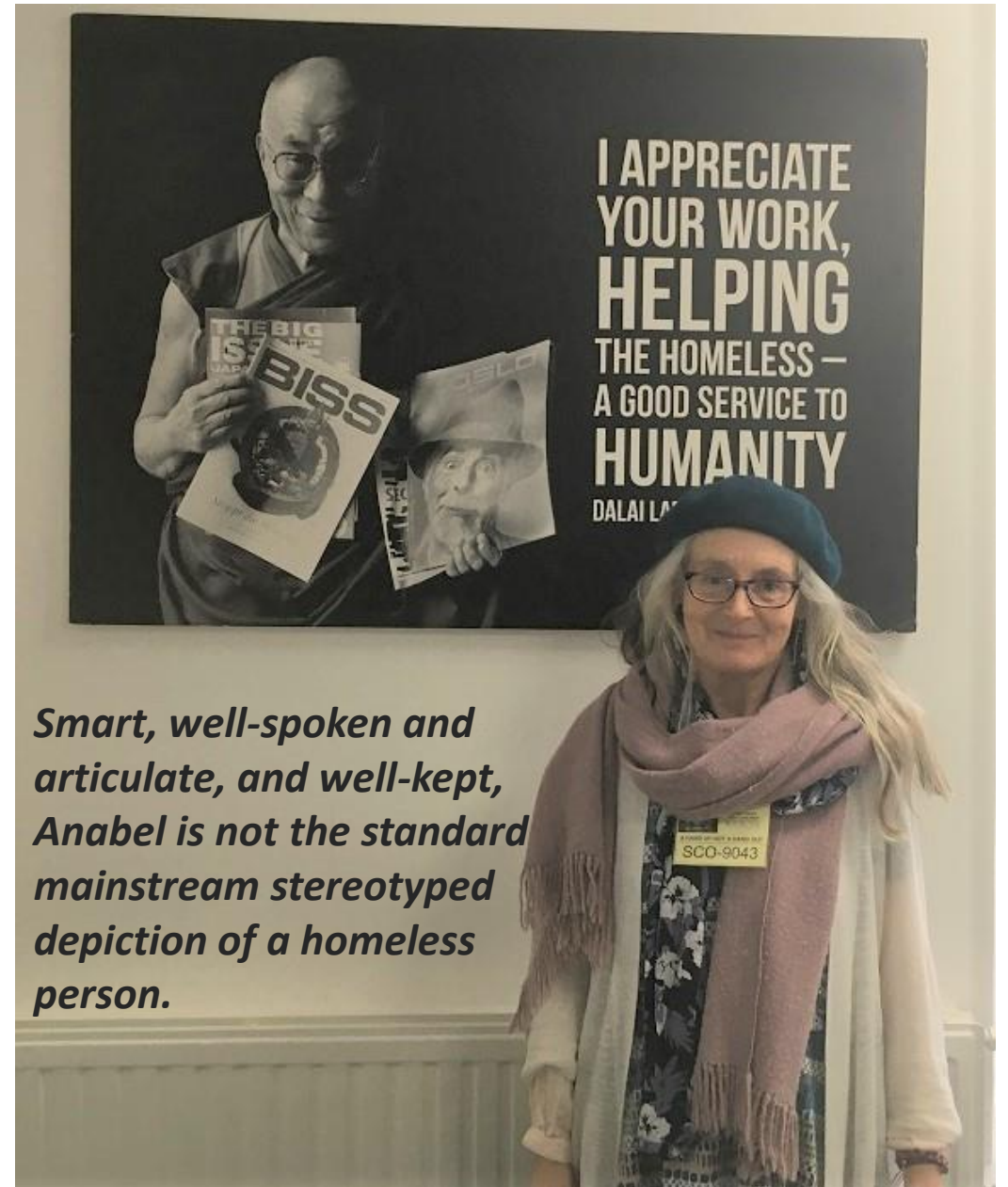


“Attending the Summit was, truly, one of the most amazing and impactful experiences of my life. I expect the relationships I made and the feelings of camaraderie will last a very long time. Sometimes problems seem very localised when really, growing income inequality, homelessness, affordable housing shortages - these are regional problems; these are global problems. It is my hope that we can work together to show the big picture as well as our micro pictures.” Emily Green, Street Roots, Portland USA

The Power of Storytelling – Changing Lives



- Story telling is part of INSP's DNA.
- We believe stories can change lives and the world we live in.
- We live in an increasingly polarised world.
- Street papers challenge perceptions.
- Tell stories that mainstream media don't cover.
- Break the barriers of 'othering'.
- Elevating voices.



Smart, well-spoken and articulate, and well-kept, Anabel is not the standard mainstream stereotyped depiction of a homeless person.



International Network of Street Papers

Our vendors want to build a better life for themselves and their families.

They each have different reasons for selling street papers:

- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Retirement/Loneliness
- Refugee
- Disability
- Social Exclusion
- Marginalisation

They are vulnerable but hard-working.

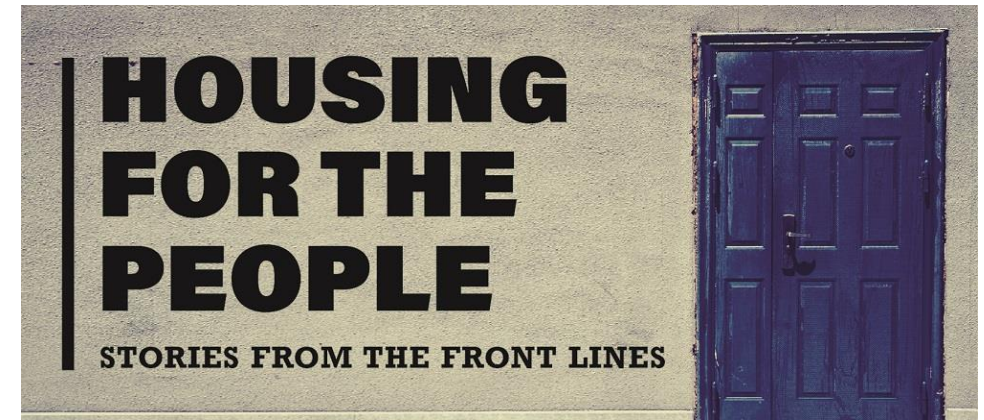


INSP Global News Service

- Stories coming from individual street papers and created by people with lived experience shared and published throughout our network
- **520** stories published annually in 2020/21
- In same period, **80%** of the network downloaded **1,677** stories and **2 million** words of content to create their street papers
- Media Partners – Reuters News, Inter Press and The Conversation
- Creates original thematic content from the global street paper networks perspective – climate change, poverty, social justice, refugees, housing

Housing For The People – A column at INSP dedicated to lived experience stories (Supported by National Low Income Housing Coalition and Community Change):

- Recruited and supported **20-25 people** with lived experience of homelessness and poverty to tell their stories through writing one column for the INSP News Service.
- Provided **coaching** and **support** for writers to empower them to gain new skills and tell their own stories i.e. not a tokenistic model for capturing lived experience.
- INSP provided a package of support for individual writers, including coaching, writing, and editing support – empowerment model.
- Writers received \$150 for each piece written and submitted to INSP News Service. With the right support, could be rolled out further...



Housing for the People: “*We have to go beyond people just attaining housing*”

By Larmarques ‘Misha’ Smith

“It was nice, for temporary housing, but I had just recently gotten a job as a barista at a coffee shop that I needed to get to early most days, so my schedule did not line up with the hours of service the Complex provided. I could not shower before work because the showers were not open, so I had to make sure I always showered the night before.”



Housing for the People: *"I came back to life in a time of trouble"*

"I'm still housed but still going through trials. Being on the streets gave me a great outlook on life that I can't forget."

Gary Barker, who sells Portland street paper Street Roots

Ethical Storytelling

- Moving on from being tokenistic and using lived experience only for charity PR purposes
- Create a **meaningful exchange** of reciprocal learning and benefit (e.g. what skills and other opportunities can we provide people?) *“co-production”*
- Champion **under-represented voices** and actively listen to what their views and experiences are; breakdown barriers & prevent ‘othering’ people
- Being **Trauma-Informed** in our approach to storytelling – when both listening to & also recounting other people’s stories



Future growth plans & need for support

Will street papers remain relevant?

- Yes, due to scale of global economic situation & cost-of-living crisis.
- Street papers are part of the poverty solution globally.
- In Scotland, we have seen the number of people classed as homeless at all time high, 11% up on previous year (Scot Gov stats). And the issues are global.
- INSP has seen a spike in enquiries of new street papers wanting to start-up – we expect our membership to extend by a further 10% by the end of 2023.



changing the world through street papers

Mike Findlay, Chief Executive of the International Network of Street Papers, explains how the street paper network is tackling poverty both locally and globally.

Most of us will know The Big Issue. Here in Glasgow, you may have purchased a copy near Central Station or outside Waitrose on Byres Road. You may even know your own local vendor by name.

But, did you know that 'street papers' – publications sold by people experiencing poverty, homelessness, or other forms of marginalisation – exist throughout the world as separate charities or social enterprises in their own right, using creative ways to tackle poverty?

Street papers provide people with an immediate, dignified and legitimate way to earn money whilst seeking to address the causes of poverty through journalism and advocacy.

Glasgow is home to the International Network of Street Papers (INSP), a charity operating both as the membership network and news service for street papers.

INSP's aim is to support street papers to alleviate poverty and build a movement for social change. Our membership consists of over 90 street papers in 35 different countries, each of them making a tangible and lasting difference to the lives of people experiencing poverty.

INSP champions the voices of people who have faced social and economic marginalisation. We know only too well how such communities can face discrimination and prejudice, and we believe in the power of independent media to challenge perceptions, counteract stereotyping and turnaround the life chances of people facing multiple challenges.

We do this through the INSP News Service, a news wire connecting street paper editorial newsrooms, fostering collaboration and the sharing of stories and resources in up to 24 languages thanks to our volunteer translators. This means the same article can be published in many street papers simultaneously.

Our network covers the big news topics of the day – including the Ukraine war, climate crisis, restrictions on abortion access, and the refugee crisis, to name a few – all reported on through the lens of homelessness and poverty.

As Steven MacKenzie, deputy editor of The Big Issue based in Glasgow, comments 'INSP's News Service is a great way for different titles from across the world to collaborate and share. Each street paper has its own editorial concerns and specialities. Having a forum to connect to them all is really useful and means we can take advantage of frontline reporting being carried out in their areas. In the last few months this has been especially useful when reporting on the Ukraine conflict. Street papers based in neighbouring countries have been directly impacted by the movement of refugees, and being able to get that insight provides a unique and personal way to cover big stories, making our coverage stand out.'

Another way INSP is championing underrepresented voices is through our Housing for the People column, allowing opportunities for writers from low-income backgrounds to have a platform for their stories. Coaching and mentoring is provided, with each contributor treated as a professional writer, receiving an income for each published article. As one contributor, Vicky Batchelor, explains 'It's such a humbling experience that others would find comfort, encouragement and ideas from anything I write. To be paid for, is another level all itself. It's such an honour to be asked to write about my experiences for INSP. What power that has and what a feeling of accomplishment when I see "Vicky Batchelor" in the by-line. It's life changing.'

I joined INSP in May of this year and I am already struck by the depth of support people receive from our members beyond the simple transaction of selling street papers. Wide wrap-around support is given for example around wellbeing, practical assistance with finances and housing, and employment skills.

As someone brought up with a strong sense of social justice since childhood (Dad led a career in social work, and Mum worked with the NHS for decades), INSP's commitment to tackling inequality gaps drove me to the organisation.

I am continuously inspired by our members ability to think and act innovatively. In Mexico City, the street paper Mi Valedor works with local partners to ensure vulnerable communities can access free health services in a non-discriminatory way. It is involved in several 'vaccination days' throughout the year, setting up services on the street or in shelters for people to get influenza vaccines, HIV and syphilis detection tests, glucose and blood pressure tests and general check-ups.

Over the past year, our network has continued to face unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, despite this – and, in some ways, spurred on by this challenge – INSP has continued its success. We have welcomed four new street papers as members of our network: two in Germany, and one each in southern Italy and Brazil.

We are a small charity of only five staff members in Glasgow, with one additional colleague leading operations in North America. But our ambitions are big: our Global Street Paper Summit took place in Italy this September allowing our members to reunite for the first time since the pandemic, and we are thinking through plans for a street paper festival in 2024 coinciding with the charity's 30th Anniversary.

In Glasgow, we are keen to partner with creative agencies and individuals who have an interest in what we do. We are also looking for new donors, supporters, and volunteers to help us fulfil our mission of changing the world through street papers. ■

www.insp.ngo

twitter: @insp & @MikeFindMedia

instagram: instagram.com/insp_agram



Future growth plans & need for support

- Global Street Paper Summit due to take place in 2024 in Portland, Oregon. We want all our members there.
- We celebrate our 30th Anniversary as a charity in 2024, chance to raise profile & have creative partnerships.
- Mental health project focus for INSP News Service.
- INSP wants more people to have the chance to sell street papers as a way out of poverty – we will run campaigns to support this.
- Digital transformation. More resources online. We are a small team, this will help.
- More opportunities for people with real life experience of homelessness & poverty to write and engage with our work.
- Diversifying our funding to deal with challenges & allowing us to fulfil our aims.



oice (Denver, USA) vendor

2022

GUIDE TO STARTING & GROWING A **STREET PAPER**

**International Network
of Street Papers**

International Network of Street Papers

How u3a members can engage with INSP

- Sign up for our newsletter: <https://www.insp.ngo/get-involved/newsletter>
- Become a regular donor: <https://www.insp.ngo/donate>
- Help us spread the word (friends, partners, family).
- Pop in and see us.

