

PARRHESIA, a new whistleblowing research charity launches its website today on World Whistleblower Day.

Led by Ian Foxley, the whistleblower behind the Airbus-GPT corruption scandal in Saudi Arabia, Parrhesia brings together the experts in academia, policy, and practice to make sure protection for whistleblowers is evidence led, and best practice is shared.

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Maj Gen David McDowall CBE said, “You’ll see just from the people we have involved, from the academics on our Academic Council, the experts on our Policy Advisory Group, the strength of our Board of Trustees, and the initial financial backing from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, that there is a huge appetite for this work to be carried out – and we have the right people to do it”.

But more than this, Parrhesia is about being a forum for discussion, bringing the sector together to work out where differences lie, but more importantly - where we agree on what needs to be done to effectively protect those who speak up about wrongdoing.

“What we realised, was that there isn’t one single place people could go to find out what is happening in the world of whistleblowing; and nowhere to discuss developments and current events. With a UK bill looking at changing employment law in the UK, it is a crucial time for UK whistleblowers. So, alongside the charity, we’re launching the Parrhesia Network as the place we can all come together and do just that.”, said CEO Ian Foxley.

For more information, go to <http://parrhesia.org.uk/>.

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NOTICE TO EDITORS

**** Embargoed until 0001hrs (UK time) 22 Jun 2021 ****

For more information, please contact James Killen at info@parrhesia.org.uk.

The Network platform is now live for accounts to be signed up, it can be found at parrhesianetwork.com.

World Whistleblower Day is observed on 23 Jun this year, and is recognised by international organisations from the Council of Europe to Transparency International, and academic and domestic organisations from Protect (UK), to Eurocadres (EU).

Quotes from key figures

“We’re pleased to contribute to Parrhesia as policy adviser. Protect has almost 30 years of experience advising whistleblowers, supporting best practice in employment, and campaigning for reform. Academic research adds value to our understanding of whistleblowing, and helps us make the case for policy and legislative change.” - **Elizabeth Gardiner, CEO Protect [UK]**.

“Effective protections and incentives for whistleblowers are essential for preventing, detecting and prosecuting financial crime, and ensuring integrity in public life. For too long in the UK, whistleblowers have been marginalised and their contribution to bringing financial crime to attention of prosecutors and the public has gone under-recognised. We are committed to working with Parrhesia to ensure whistleblowers get the compensation and protection they need.” - **Dr Susan Hawley, Executive Director, Spotlight on Corruption [UK]**.

“Parrhesia brings together under one roof, leading researchers, practitioners, and others from around the world, many of whom have been working in this area for years. As Whistleblowing Canada continues its work to expand and enhance whistleblowing research and practice in Canada, this alliance and the sharing and exchange of knowledge and ideas it brings, will enrich that process. It is also indicative of a growing international movement that acknowledges the importance of whistleblowing to maintaining honest organizations, our democratic institutions, and our democratic way of life. Whistleblowing Canada enthusiastically joins in this endeavour.” – **Pamela Forward, Executive Director and President, Whistleblowing Canada Research Society [Canada]**.