



# ICORN

INTERNATIONAL CITIES OF REFUGE NETWORK

## MEMBER CITIES/REGIONS MAY 2018

AMSTERDAM / BARCELONA / BELO HORIZONTE / BERGEN / BERLIN / BRÜSSEL / BØ / CHIUSI /  
DALARNA / DRØBAK / ESKILSTUNA / FRANKFURT / GÄVLE / GDANSK / GIRONA / GÖTEBORG /  
HANNOVER / HARSTAD / HAUGESUND / HELSINGBORG / HELSINGØR / HELSINKI / ITHACA NY /  
JÖNKÖPING / KARLSTAD / KRAKOW / KRISTIANSAND / KØBENHAVN / LEVANGER / LILLEHAMMER /  
LINKÖPING / LJUBLJANA / LUCERNE / LUND / LULEÅ / MALMÖ / MEXICO CITY / MOLDE /  
NORRKÖPING / NORWICH / OAXACA / OSLO / PARIS / PITEÅ / PITTSBURGH / POITIERS / REYKJAVIK /  
ROTTERDAM / SANDVIKEN / SIGTUNA / SKELLEFTEÅ / SKIEN / SKÅNE / STAVANGER / STOCKHOLM /  
SURREY / TOSCANA / TROMSØ / TRONDHEIM / UDDEVALLA / UMEÅ / UPPSALA / VÄSTRE GÖTALAND /  
LÄN / VESTFOLD / VÄXJÖ / WROCLAW / ÖREBRO / ÖSTERSUND / ÅRHUS /

The International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) is an independent organisation of cities and regions offering residencies to writers and artists at risk, advancing freedom of expression, defending democratic values and promoting international solidarity.

## **ARTICLE 19,** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

## WHY ICORN?

- Freedom of Expression
- Writers, journalists and artists often become the first targets of authoritarian regimes and repressive groups
- Strong signal to other writers and artists
- Strong signal to people of power and persecutors
- Cultural, social exchange and integration
- Defend democratic values and promote international solidarity

## ICORN - HISTORY

- \1993** International Parliament of Writers (IPW) and International Network of Cities of Asylum (INCA) established by Salman Rushdie & colleagues
- \2005** IPW and INCA dissolves and Stavanger takes on the responsibility to continue the work
- \2006** ICORN – International Cities of Refuge Network established in Stavanger
- \2010** ICORN becomes an independent membership organisation
- \2016** ICORN celebrates 10 years anniversary in Paris
- \2018** Passed 69 member cities, 500 applicants and 200 placements

### HARSTAD: CITY OF REFUGE SINCE 2014

Harstad is the world's first City of Refuge for musicians at risk. It is run by the municipality, with support from Troms County. In Harstad, as in all Norwegian ICORN Cities, the writers and artists arrive as quota refugees.

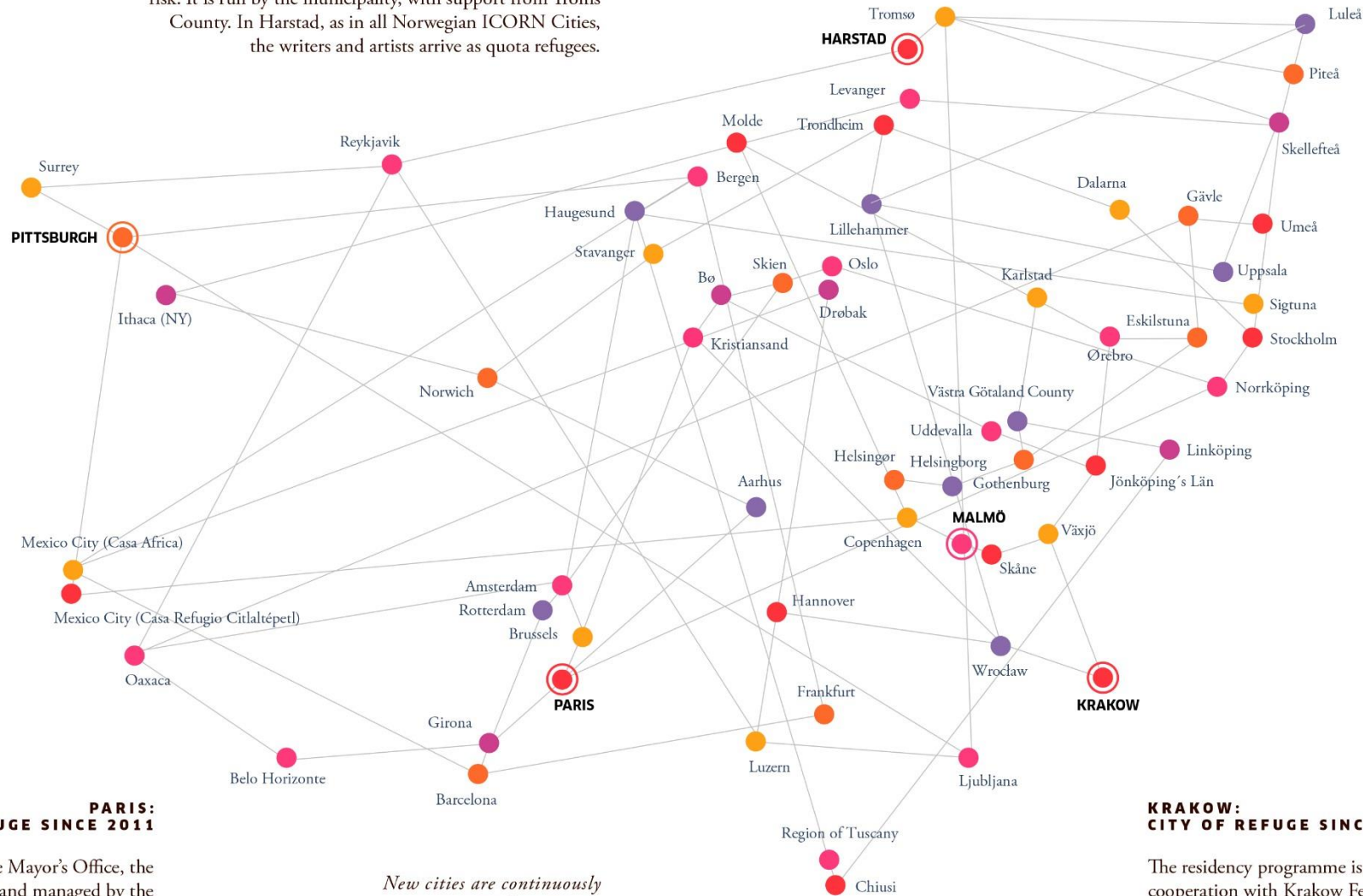
### PITTSBURGH: CITY OF REFUGE SINCE 2003

The ICORN programme has support from the city of Pittsburgh, but is run by City of Asylum/Pittsburgh. They provide sanctuary to multiple writers and artists simultaneously, and run cultural programmes in the community. It is funded by the founders of CoA/ Pittsburgh, city funds and private sponsors.

### PARIS: CITY OF REFUGE SINCE 2011

Anchored in the Mayor's Office, the programme is financed and managed by the city administration, in cooperation with partners within the media, human rights and the cultural sphere.

*New cities are continuously joining the network.*



### MALMÖ: CITY OF REFUGE SINCE 2010

The ICORN programme is financed and anchored in the cultural department of the municipality, and co-operate with local, national and international cultural actors. In 2014, the city decided to run two residencies simultaneously, one for writers and one for artists/musicians.

### KRAKOW: CITY OF REFUGE SINCE 2011

The residency programme is run by the Villa Decius in close cooperation with Krakow Festival Office, which is part of the city administration that deals with the organisation and promotion of major cultural events in the city.

## WHAT IS ICORN

- Independent, international membership organisation
- Each member invites one or more writer/artist at risk related to their work, for a 1-2 years residency, locally funded
- Members are responsible for housing, living cost, visa, travel, insurance and professional and social follow-up
- Secretariat assists, advises and connects host cities, writers and artists, and partners, also through yearly meetings
- Secretariat receives and approves applications for residencies, with PEN International
- Connect and cooperate with relevant public and civil society organisations, including for joint promotion projects
- Fundraising, mainly for running the Secretariat

## WHO CAN COME TO AN ICORN RESIDENCY

Any writer or artist who is threatened or persecuted for expressing their opinion or ideas, through professional and/or artistic work, is invited to apply for an ICORN residency.



## WHAT IS IN AN ICORN RESIDENCY

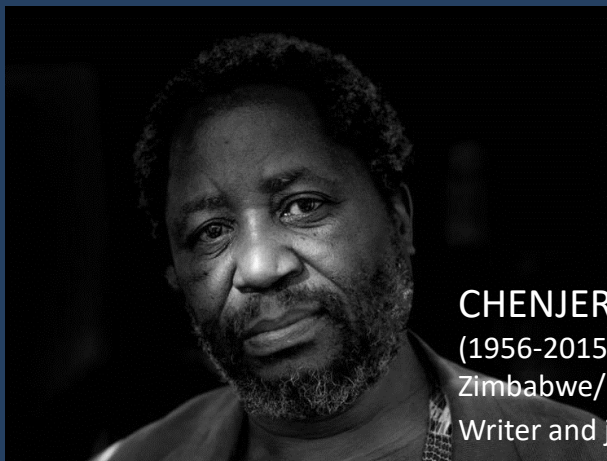
- Provide the basics: housing, grant, insurance
- Assist with professional and social network
- Security and well-being
- Promote the work, arrange events
- Connect with other members of ICORN, new communities
- Win-win connections



**SIHEM BENSEDRIINE**

Tunisia/Barcelona

Journalist, HRD, Head of Tunisia's  
Truth and Dignity commission



**CHENJERAI HOVE**

(1956-2015)

Zimbabwe/Miami

Writer and journalist



**ICORN**

INTERNATIONAL CITIES OF REFUGE NETWORK

## ICORN WRITERS AND ARTISTS



**BASIM AHMED JAMAL**

Iraq/Umeå

Musician and music teacher



**SVETLANA ALEXIEVICH**

Belarus/Göteborg

Journalist and novelist,  
Nobel Prize in literature 2015



**TUTUL**

Bangladesh/

Skien

Publisher



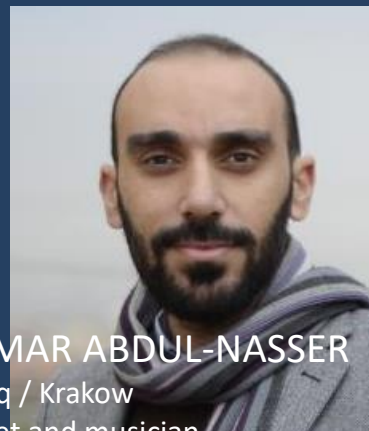
**KHALED**

**HARARA**

Palestina/Gaza/

Göteborg

Rapper



**UMAR ABDUL-NASSER**

Iraq / Krakow

Poet and musician

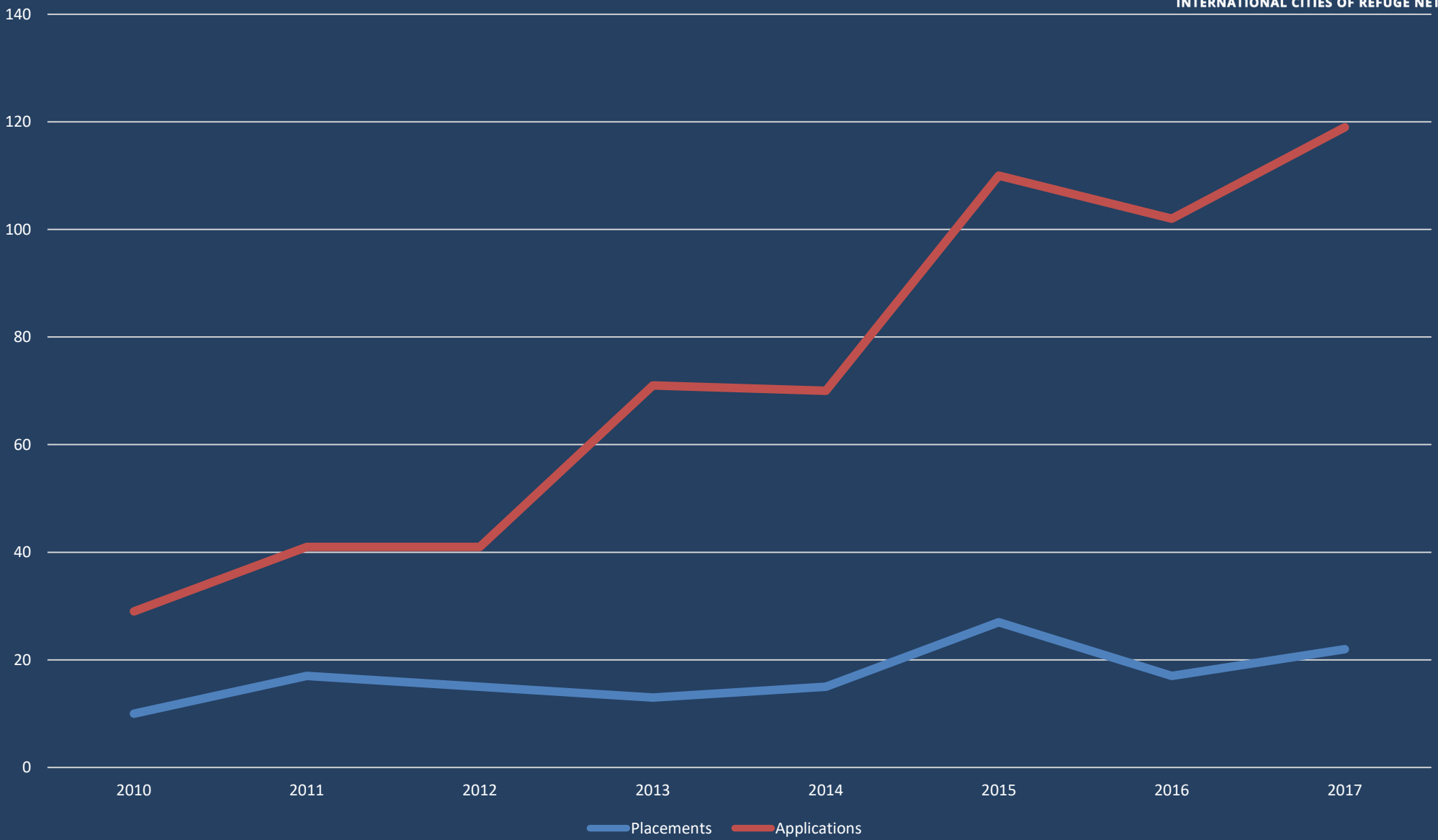


**PARVIN ARDALAN**

Iran / Malmö

Journalist, women's rights  
activist

# ICORN applications vs placements

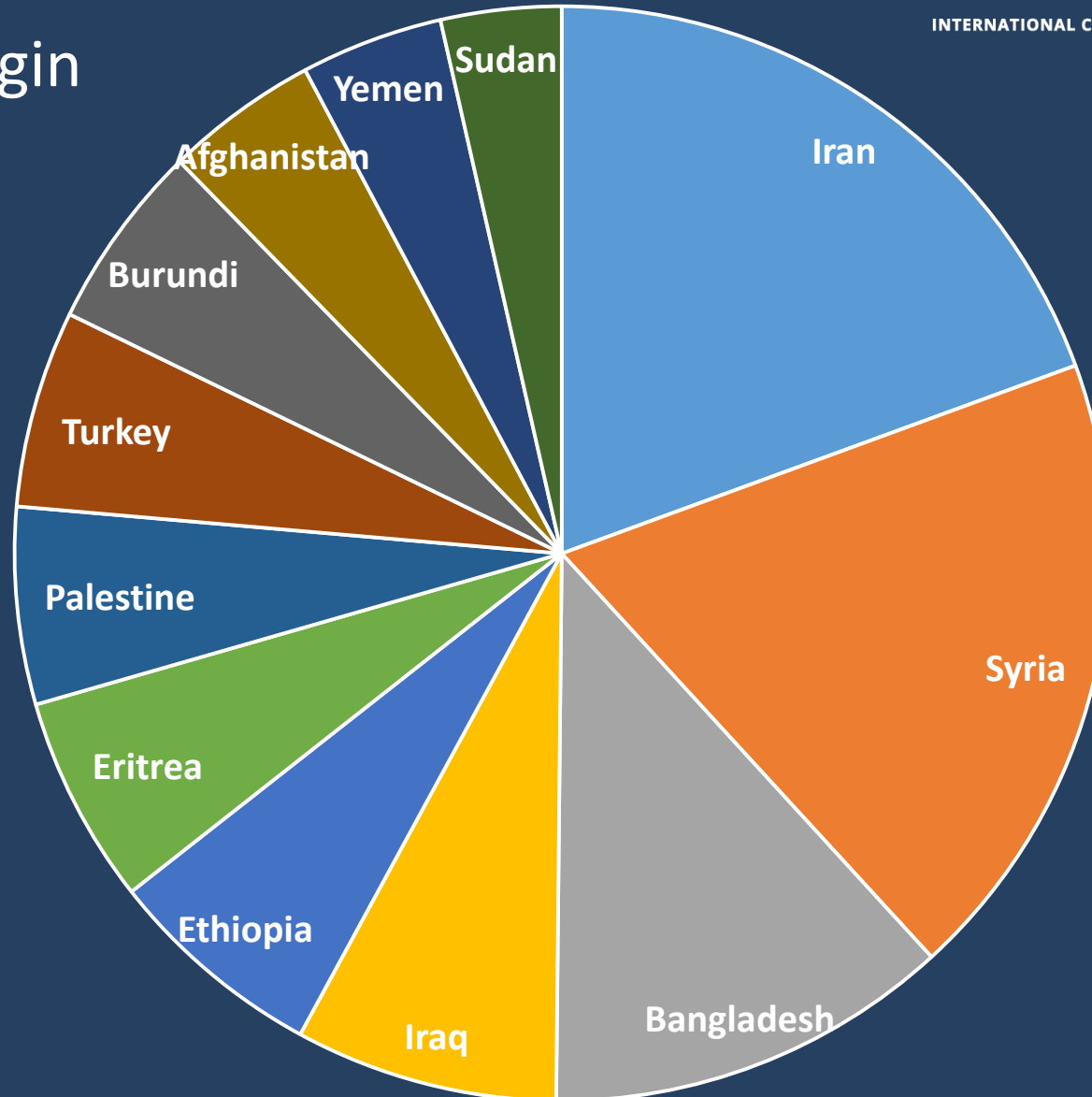


## WHERE DO APPLICANTS COME FROM?

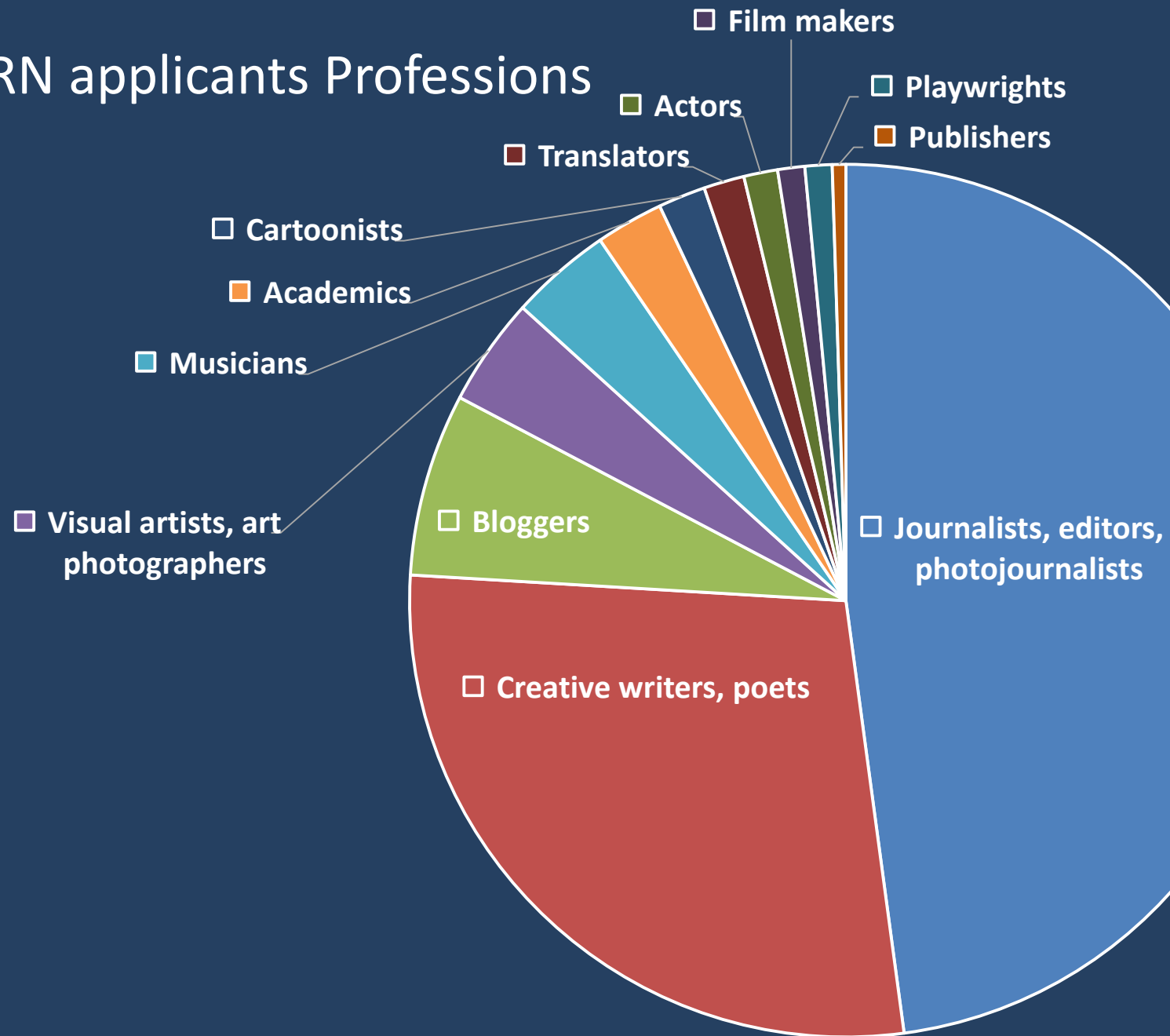


# ICORN applicants Main countries of origin 2014-17

Countries with 3 or more applicants



# ICORN applicants Professions





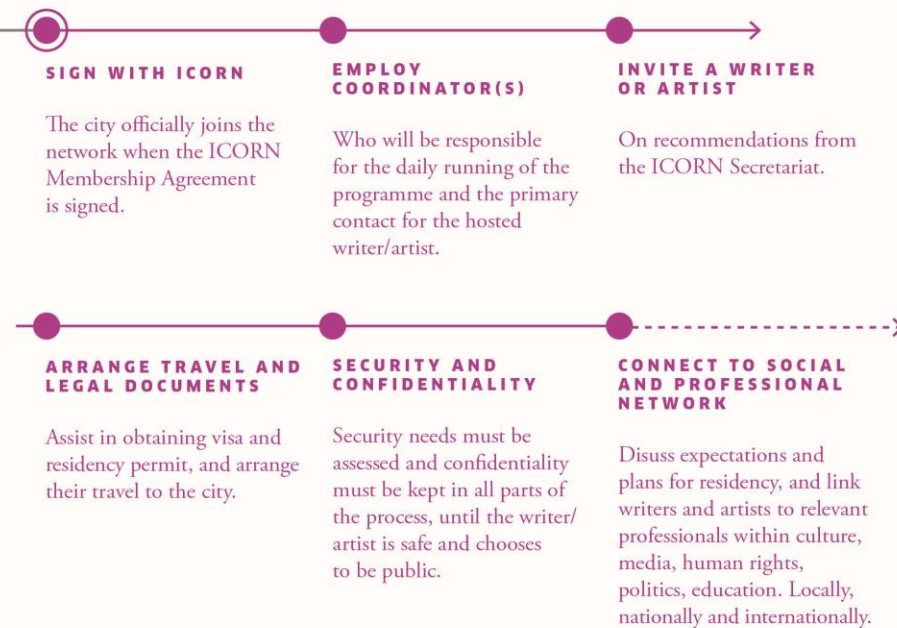


“Especially in times like ours when nations are put under pressure by unprecedented political challenges, it is important that cities can step forward underlining the values of hospitality and solidarity.”

RAFAL DUTKIEWICZ, MAYOR OF WROCLAW



PHOTO: GRZEGORZ ZIEMIAŃSKI





**SAFE**

# NOT SILENT

**ICORN  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
2018**



**ICORN**



# ICORN General Assembly & 10 Years Anniversary Paris 2016





- Throughout the twentieth century, the City of Paris has been host to exiles from around the world, for intellectuals and artists. The values of human rights and freedom of expression is at the core of the international strategy of our city. Being a part of ICORN, hosting writers, journalists and artists at risk, is both a very concrete and an important symbolic fulfilment of our commitment.

Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of the City of Paris



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