

ATHEIST ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL

FOR A SECULAR WORLD



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

VOICES • PROTECTION • IMPACT

Celebrating 34 Years of Advocacy for Freedom of Thought

2025 Impact at a Glance

34 YEARS Defending freedom of thought	79 MEMBER ORGS Worldwide coalition	1,167 STUDENTS Educated in humanist schools
3 LEGAL VICTORIES Blasphemy cases won	10 SAFE BEDS In The Lighthouse shelter	6 GRANTS AWARDED To member organizations

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2025

- Launched The Lighthouse Safe House in Turkey for at-risk atheist refugees
- Full acquittal of Jibon Ali in landmark Bangladesh blasphemy case
- President Tonoy Emroz Alam named Atheist of the Year 2025
- Program Director Nora Mahmood awarded Humanist of the Year
- Welcomed 3 new member organizations (79 total worldwide)

Voices, Protection, Impact

This year marks 34 years of Atheist Alliance International—a volunteer-led organization that has worked steadily and with purpose since the beginning. Its mission has always been clear: supporting secular values, defending human rights, and strengthening atheist communities around the world.

Reaching 34 years matters. It reflects the dedication of volunteers, supporters, and partners who believe in freedom of thought—who believe no one should be punished for what they do or do not believe.

AAI began as a small group of people with shared ideas. Over time, it became a global organization. Today, AAI is the biggest international atheist NGO on our planet. It speaks up for atheists and secular people in places where they face stigma, danger, or legal punishment. Through advocacy, outreach, and direct support, AAI helps those who are often ignored or silenced.

"The work is not finished. Together, we continue to push for a world where everyone is free to think, believe, or not believe."

— AAI Mission Statement

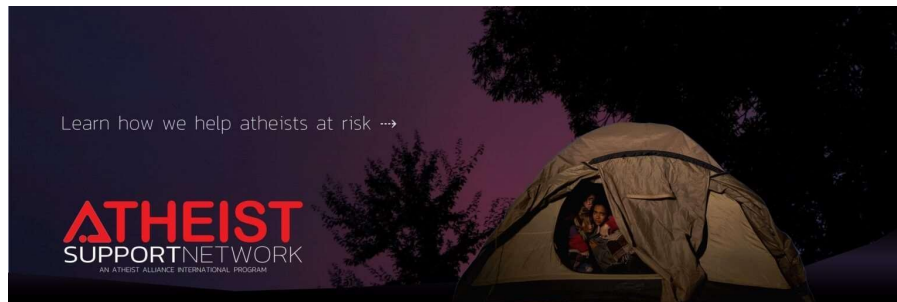
A Transformative Year

The past year represented a period of meaningful advancement and careful recalibration. Across our global network, we strengthened institutional capacity, expanded life-saving programs, and deepened our commitment to education and human rights advocacy—while also confronting shifts within the broader secular funding landscape.

The Alliance welcomed three new members: Humanist PH, Bluewater Atheists Humanists Agnostics, and provisional member Abrimac Secular Services Ltd. AAI continued to grow as a global coalition, reaching a total of 79 member organizations worldwide.

One of the most significant developments was the launch of the Atheist Refugee Assistance Program's Safe House Project in Turkey. This initiative, represents a critical step forward in protecting atheists at severe risk, with particular emphasis on women who face compounded threats due to gender and belief.

Atheist Support Network



The Atheist Support Network (ASN) is a core humanitarian program dedicated to protecting individuals who face persecution as a result of their nonreligious beliefs. In environments where atheism is criminalized or socially punished, ASN delivers critical, often life-saving assistance to those targeted under blasphemy or apostasy laws.

LEGAL DEFENSE For blasphemy cases worldwide	SAFE RELOCATION Travel & asylum support
EMERGENCY AID Financial assistance for essentials	SAFE HOUSING 10+-bed facility

A central component of ASN's work involves legal defense for individuals accused of blasphemy—charges that are frequently weaponized to suppress dissent and enforce religious conformity. One notable outcome was ASN's role in overturning the conviction of Yahia Sharif Aminu in Nigeria, who had previously been sentenced to death.

Beyond direct intervention, ASN actively engages with international human rights partners to advance broader protections for atheists and secular individuals, working to promote systemic reforms that uphold freedom of belief.

Lives Changed: Case Studies

Jibon Ali — Bangladesh

LANDMARK VICTORY: Full Acquittal



Jibon Ali

Jibon Ali, a university student from Kushtia district, was targeted for his social media writings on social justice and religious extremism. He received death threats and was subjected to mob violence.

On November 14, 2020, Jibon was brutally attacked by an extremist mob. Rather than receiving protection, he was arrested and charged under Bangladesh's Digital Security Act. He was held for **163 days without trial** and subjected to torture while in custody.

After a prolonged legal process supported by AAI, **all charges were dismissed and he was fully acquitted**—a rare victory against the misuse of blasphemy laws.

"AAI stood by me when everyone else turned away. They gave me hope when I had lost everything. Now I can continue my studies and speak freely without fear."

— Jibon Ali

Ahmed Al Khair — Mali/Niger

FREEDOM SECURED: Released After 8 Months



Ahmed Al Khair

Ahmed was widely known in Mali for his outspoken rejection of religious extremism. Through a Facebook page titled 'Atheism,' he challenged militant interpretations of Islam in a country where such expression carries severe risks—Mali remains a stronghold for ISIS and Al-Qaeda affiliates.

Forced to flee to Niger, Ahmed and a companion were arrested on fabricated 'terrorism' charges—a common tactic to silence religious critics. He spent **nearly eight months** in harsh prison conditions before contacting AAI.

AAI engaged legal advocates and launched an emergency appeal. On June 1, 2022, the court ordered his release after the state produced no evidence. Ahmed remains actively supported by AAI as he seeks permanent protection.

"In prison, I thought I would be forgotten. But AAI found me, fought for me, and brought me back to freedom. I am alive because of their support."

— Ahmed Al Khair

Joydeb Chandra Shil — Bangladesh

ONGOING SUPPORT: Education & Safety Secured



Joydeb Chandra Shil

Joydeb is a blogger who wrote about social inequality, secularism, and the impact of religious extremism. As a result of his writings, he was attacked by a mob, arrested in critical condition, and charged under Bangladesh's Digital Security Act.

He was imprisoned for **more than eighteen months without trial**, experiencing harsh conditions and repeated mistreatment.

AAI helped him obtain a student visa to India, where he completed an M.Sc. in Advanced Networking and Cyber Security. While his situation remains uncertain due to India not being a Refugee Convention signatory, AAI continues to support his journey toward lasting safety.

"When I lost my country, AAI helped me find my future. They didn't just save my life—they gave me the chance to rebuild it through education."

— Joydeb Chandra Shil

Atheist Refugee Assistance Program

Atheist Refugee Assistance Program

برنامه کمک به پناهندگان آتئیست



Ateist Mülteci Yardım Programı

برنامهج مساعدة اللاجئين الملحدين

The Atheist Refugee Assistance Program in Turkey operates through a partnership between Atheist Alliance International, the Center for Inquiry USA, Centre for Inquiry Canada, Ateizm Dernegi Turkey, Ateizm Dernegi International Foundation, and David P Silverman Charitable Fund. It supports nonreligious individuals forced to leave their home countries due to religious persecution—many from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan, where openly identifying as an atheist can result in serious harm, imprisonment, or death.

 Housing Assistance Identifying housing, facilitating shared arrangements, assisting with documentation	 Employment Support Resume adaptation, Turkish translation, job application preparation
 Legal Navigation Volunteer legal professionals, UNHCR coordination, case verification	 Guidance Services Financial aid applications, educational opportunities, scholarships

The Lighthouse: A Safe Haven



THE LIGHTHOUSE SAFEHOUSE

*A collaboration between AAI, the Ateizm Dernegi (Association of Atheism, Turkey),
Powered by David P. Silverman Charitable Fund*

10+ beds providing temporary housing • **Confidential location** for safety

Supporting recovery, asylum navigation, and preparation for independent living

The Lighthouse operates from a confidential location in Türkiye, providing a calm and secure environment for individuals recovering from trauma. A significant number of beneficiaries are women who have faced compounded hardships, including both religious discrimination and restrictive gender norms.

"No one should be forced to live in fear because of their beliefs—or the courage to live without them."

— The Lighthouse Mission

Empowering Futures Through Education

EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

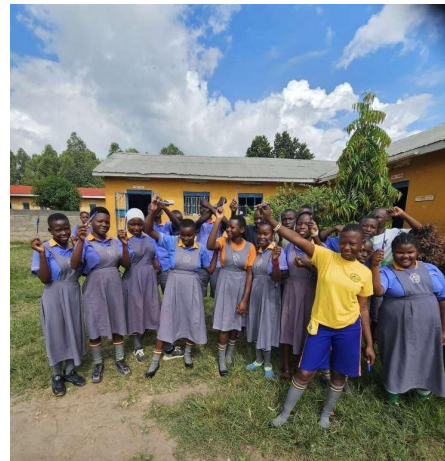
1,167 students across two humanist schools in rural Uganda

AAI invests in long-term humanitarian development in Africa, with a particular focus on education. These programs not only provide education but also model inclusive, secular values that empower young people to think critically and participate fully in their societies.

Kasese Humanist School — Uganda

The year 2025 has been a period of significant growth for Kasese Humanist School. Across its campuses in Rukoki, Muhokya, and Kahendero, the school served **771 students (423 girls, 348 boys)**.

Key achievements include sustainable farming initiatives providing food security, approximately 75 orphans supported through scholarships, and over 600 new trees planted for environmental stewardship.



Kasese Humanist School

771

STUDENTS

423 girls, 348 boys

75

ORPHANS

Supported with scholarships

600+

TREES

Planted for sustainability

Eagle's View Humanist Primary School — Uganda



Eagle's View Humanist Primary School

Located in Kaira Village, Jinja, Eagle's View enrolled **396 pupils (155 boys, 241 girls)** in 2025, demonstrating strong demand for secular, humanist education.

With support from David P. Silverman and AAI, the school installed new security infrastructure, expanded support for orphaned children, and is planning construction of a boys' dormitory.

396 PUPILS 155 boys, 241 girls	NEW SECURITY Solar-powered systems	PLANNED DORMITORY For orphaned boys
---	---	--

Global Advocacy & Engagement

Atheist Alliance International has remained a leading voice in defending the rights of atheists, secular communities, and religious minorities worldwide. AAI actively participates in international dialogues on freedom of belief through the United Nations Forum on Freedom of Religion or Belief (UNFoRB) and the UN Human Rights Council.

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHT: Dignity in Death

AAI urged the United Nations to address discrimination against atheists in matters of death, burial, and public commemoration—calling for secular cemeteries, accessible crematorium facilities, and equal access to state funerals. AAI emphasized that freedom of thought, conscience, and belief must extend beyond life.

European Court of Human Rights Campaign

AAI is actively supporting a campaign to promote religious neutrality in Greek courtrooms. The European Court of Human Rights is currently examining appeals concerning the presence of a religious icon in Greece's highest administrative court. AAI has announced it will intervene in the proceedings as a third party, advocating for state neutrality and judicial impartiality.

Grants to Member Organizations

During 2025, AAI allocated grants to member organizations supporting advocacy, educational, legal, and public-engagement initiatives. Grant recipients included:

- Argentinian Ethical-Humanist Association "Deodoro Roca"
- Bluewater Atheists, Humanists, and Agnostics (BAHA)
- Der Zentralrat der Ex-Muslime
- Fundacja im. Kazimierza Łyszczyńskiego
- Humanist Association of Nigeria

Financial Report

Currency: USD k

Statement of Activities		2025	2024
Donations (gross)		63,6	47,3
Memberships (gross)	Affiliate membership	0,6	0,9
	Individual Members	10,6	12,1
	Gross Memberships	11,2	13,1
Other Revenue		0,1	0,0
Total Revenue		74,9	60,4
Project Outlays	Various other projects	32,7	23,9
	To Affiliates	33,9	20,8
	Total Project Outlays	66,6	44,7
Administration	Salaries		
	Professional Fees (incl Insurance)	2,6	5,1
	Other Admin Expenses	4,5	2,9
	Total Administration	7,1	8,0
Total Expenses		73,6	52,7
Excess / (Deficit) for the year:		1,3	7,7
Net Assets at Beginning of Year:		29,8	22,1
Net Assets at End of Year:		31,0	29,8

Charting the Year Ahead

As Atheist Alliance International enters its thirty-fifth year, the organization does so with clarity of purpose and a renewed sense of responsibility. The challenges facing atheists and secular individuals worldwide remain profound—and in many regions they are intensifying.

2026 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Expand and stabilize humanitarian protection programs
- Enhance The Lighthouse capacity and explore additional safe housing
- Deepen engagement with UN and regional human rights mechanisms
- Strengthen humanist school infrastructure and teacher support
- Diversify funding streams and reinforce transparent governance

"AAI's work has never been the task of a single organization alone; it is the product of volunteers, members, partners, and supporters who share a commitment to freedom of thought and human dignity."

— AAI Leadership

JOIN US IN DEFENDING FREEDOM OF THOUGHT

While much has been achieved over the past 34 years, the work remains unfinished.

www.atheistalliance.org

ATHEIST ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL
For a Secular World