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## The Signpost

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### News and notes

## Is no WikiNews good WikiNews? — Election season returns!

By [Andreas Kolbe](#), [HaeB](#), [Md Mobashir Hossain](#), [Smallbones](#), and [Soni](#) [Contribute](#) — [Share this](#) [\[show\]](#)

### Wikinews shutting down?

The [Sister Projects Task Force announced](#) two "public consultation[s]" last month: It recommended [not to add Wikispore](#) as a new project, and to [shut down all Wikinews projects](#).

The Task Force consists of a mix of [Board of Trustees \(BoT\) members](#) and selected volunteers. It is part of the [BoT's Community Affairs Committee](#) and was first announced in 2023. This is the first significant announcement from the Task Force. In a "community consultation on both proposals", comments are invited until July 27 . However, there has been confusion about whether the two recommendations are already considered a final decision, or are still open to revision.

Further information can also be found on the [Wikinews Consultation](#) page on Meta. The corresponding [talk page discussion](#) has nearly 90,000 words (over 3.3 [tomats](#)) at the time of writing, with over 100 editors opining in multiple sprawling threads. The Task Force also held two public calls as part of the consultations (on [16th July](#) and [17th July](#)).

Several community members noted concerns with unilateral decisionmaking, and a seeming lack of prior communication (including with the Wikinews communities themselves) before these recommendations were posted. The proposal currently implies content from Wikinews would be merged

into respective Wikipedias, but it is not obvious how much of the English Wikinews content would be merged into the English Wikipedia, what role that content would play on a very different project with radically different policy and focus, or who would be in charge of doing this. — [S](#), [H](#)

## A question mark about Wikimania

[Wikimania](#) will be held this year in Nairobi, Kenya from August 5-9, and the [conference program](#) was published earlier this week.

While there's no reason to panic or to cancel your airplane ticket, attendees might want to be aware that both the [U.S.](#) and [Canadian](#) governments have recently issued travel alerts or updated their travel advice for Kenya, in context of the [2025 Kenyan protests](#). There are areas in the country, particularly northern border areas, that may be unsafe for travellers. Street crime is high throughout much of the country including in parts of Nairobi. This is a return to normal. More concerning are the political demonstrations of June 25 and [especially July 7](#) . On the 7th, 38 people were killed across the country, including 11 in Nairobi. The causes for the demonstrations are also fairly normal: economic insecurity, government corruption and other failures of some democratic institutions, as well as over-reaction and brutality by the police.

This is not the first year that the annual Wikimania conference has been held in the global South, nor the first time it's been held in Africa. It's not even the first time that concerns have been raised about on-site safety for conference participants — e.g. *The Signpost* reported about these [as early as 2008](#), and in 2020 Wikimania was postponed because of COVID.

*The Signpost* requested comment from the conference organizers, and we are publishing their reply at [Wikipedia:Wikipedia Signpost/2025-07-18/In focus](#), which was prepared with the help of the [WMF](#). They emphasize that the neighborhood where Wikimania is being held, [Gigiri](#), is physically separate from the areas where the demonstrations were held. They will be monitoring the situation and encourage you to do the same. [If you register ahead of time](#) , you can get Airport shuttle buses between the airport and hotels.

So there is no reason to panic. But be careful out there. And [online participation](#) remains an option at this year's Wikimania — also for those Wikimedians who did not obtain an in-person ticket in the first place.

— [Sb](#), [H](#)

## Wikimedia Foundation publishes first Form 990 for the \$144 million Wikimedia Endowment

As announced in a [Diff blog post](#) , the Wikimedia Foundation has [presented](#) its first [Form 990](#) for the [Wikimedia Endowment](#), covering the period from September 2023 to June 2024.

The Wikimedia Endowment, previously held by the [Tides Foundation](#), began operations as a standalone tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization on September 30, 2023, "with the mission to act as a permanent fund that can support in perpetuity the operations and activities of current and future Wikimedia projects." It has no employees of its own and pays no salaries; all work is done by Wikimedia Foundation staff.

The Form 990 published now was preceded by an [audit report](#) for the same period published last November, showing that as of June 30, 2024, the Endowment's net assets stood at \$144.3 million, made up primarily of cash of \$20.1M and investments of \$123.4M. Additional takeaways from the Form 990 include:

Part IV of the Endowment's Form 990 covers topics related to the Endowment's governance system, policies, and disclosure reporting practices. The Wikimedia Endowment follows governance best practices, such as ensuring that senior leaders on our staff and Board of Trustees do not have family or business relationships with one another, that the Endowment did not discover a major diversion of assets (which would indicate theft or fraud), and that notes are taken at all Board of Trustees meetings. In 2027 after two more Form 990s are submitted, the Endowment will be eligible to receive an overall rating from Charity Navigator since its ratings are based on three years of operations.

An FAQ is [available on Meta-Wiki](#). — [AK](#)

## U4C Elections conclude

The 2025 elections for the [Universal Code of Conduct Coordinating Committee \(U4C\)](#) just concluded. Out of 21 candidates standing for election, only [4 were elected](#), all for two year terms. This means that U4C will continue to have 8 members seated out of 16, just enough to reach quorum.

The elected candidates were -

- [BRPever](#) ([talk](#) · [contribs](#)) (Simple English Wikipedia, South Asia seat)
- [Civvi](#) ([talk](#) · [contribs](#)) (Italian Wikipedia, Community at Large seat)
- [Barkeep49](#) ([talk](#) · [contribs](#)) (English Wikipedia, Community at Large seat)
- [Luke081515](#) ([talk](#) · [contribs](#)) (German Wikipedia, Community at Large seat)

Notably, 3 of the 4 elected candidates were re-elected. After this election, three regional seats and five "community at large" seats remain empty. This comes after the [2025 Annual Review](#) which passed 4 reforms for [Universal Code of Conduct \(UCoC\)](#) and U4C, including removing a "homewiki" restriction. The election results and further reforms can be discussed [on the respective talk page](#).

The U4C was established in 2024, and has since taken [a half dozen cases](#) of violations of UCoC in smaller projects, as well as cases of systemic failure. The U4C was last covered by *The Signpost* in the [1 May](#) issue. — [S](#)

**Disclaimer:** [Soni](#), the author of this section, had applied for U4C in the aforementioned elections.

## BoT elections begin — Shortlisting in progress

The [2025 election process](#) for the [WMF Board of Trustees](#) has begun, with the [application process](#) closing on 9 July. The application process ran for 3 weeks, with the initial 2 week time period extended citing "complex processes" this year. This election will be seating 2 candidates to the Board of Trustees. Notably, no incumbent Trustee is standing for re-election.



Lots of feedback and ideas are being explored already on the [community collaboration page](#), so join in!  
AK

## Brief notes

- Following the start of a (now moot) [recall petition](#), [David Gerard](#) ([talk](#) · [contribs](#)) resigned his admin tools [at BN](#).
- **Milestones:** The following Wikimedia projects have reached milestones:
  - **Bengali Wiktionary** has reached **100,000 entries**.
  - **The Hausa Wikipedia** has reached **60,000 articles**.
  - **The Central Bikol Wikipedia** has reached **20,000 articles**.
- **Articles for Improvement:** This week's [Article for Improvement](#) is *[Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind](#)*. Next week's is [Human behavior](#). Please be bold in helping improve these articles!
- [DIVINE](#) and [Tulsi](#) are banned by WMF. See also [Wikipedia:Administrators'\\_noticeboard/Archive361#DIVINE\\_and\\_Tulsi:\\_COI/UPE/quid-pro-quo\\_editing,\\_association\\_with\\_threats\\_and\\_harassment](#) for issues related to these two users.



Mijin kwakwa (male mallard duck) from the [Hausa Wikipedia](#). CC BY-SA 3.0 Acarpentier

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- Thanks to all! It is my first article! Thanks and Thanks again! [Md Mobashir Hossain](#) ([talk](#)) 07:59, 18 July 2025 (UTC) [[reply](#)]

## Board of Trustees elections

That shortlisting process for the Board of Trustee elections is getting ever more restrictive. Compare last year's [meta:Wikimedia Foundation elections/2024/Shortlisting process](#):

- The Elections Committee and Board of Trustees determined 12 candidates would be a reasonable number for voters to review. If there are more than 15 eligible candidates as determined by the Elections Committee, a shortlisting process will occur. The process will aim to shortlist 12 candidates, and these 12 candidates will be running in the community voting phase. If there are 15 or fewer candidates, there will be no shortlisting process.

It's true that last year there were four seats up for grabs rather than two but but with the affiliates eliminating all but six candidates this year it does feel like there is less and less meaningful choice. [Andreas JN466](#) 08:18, 18 July 2025 (UTC) [[reply](#)]



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