

# Funding the Future

Article URL

Published: January 12, 2026, 6:37 pm

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I was invited to the [Sheila McKechnie Foundation awards](#) ceremony yesterday.

It was great to see David Hillman of [Stamp Out Poverty](#) receive the Sheila McKechnie Achievement Award - which was incredibly well deserved for his leadership of the campaign for a financial transaction tax.

I was also flattered to receive a special recognition award for my tax campaigning. I'm grateful to the Foundation for that - and to Titus Alexander for nominating me.

These things do matter to all involved - we are human, after all. But what matters much more is what all present agreed upon, which is [the decisions being made in the House of Commons this week](#) which will remove the right of many people in this country to campaign on issues of concern to them.

I never thought I'd say the basic right to free speech in this country removed. But it's happening. And that's a threat to democracy itself.