

Entity: David Horowitz Freedom Center (DHFC)

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Basic Information

- **Type:** US nonprofit organisation (501(c)(3))
- **Status:** Active
- **HQ:** Los Angeles, California, USA
- **Founded:** 1988 (as Center for the Study of Popular Culture, rebranded ~2007)
- **Founder:** David Horowitz (historian, former Marxist turned neoconservative)
- **Board member:** Robert Shillman (tech billionaire, fellowship funder)
- **Tax status:** 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- **IRS EIN:** [Need to confirm — likely searchable on ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer]
- **Website:** <https://www.horowitzfreedomcenter.org/>

Role in Ecosystem

DHFC is the **operational mechanism** for Robert Shillman's counter-jihad fellowship programme. While Shillman provides the money and the ideological direction, DHFC manages the actual fellowship pipeline — selecting, placing, and overseeing the ~20 Shillman Fellows across US and Canadian media platforms.

This makes DHFC the **central routing node** in the Shillman pipeline:

Robert Shillman (money + ideology)

→ David Horowitz Freedom Center (management + placement)

→ Rebel Media / Rebel News (host platform, Canada)

→ Tommy Robinson (£85k fellowship)

→ Katie Hopkins (fellowship)

- Laura Loomer (fellowship)
- Raheem Kassam (fellowship)
- ~16 other fellows (names TBD)

Money IN (Funding Received)

Date	From	Amount	Type	Confidence	Source
Ongoing	Robert Shillman	Significant (major board donor)	Donations	CONFIRMED	DHFC website, Observer
Ongoing	US conservative donors	Unknown	Donations	CONFIRMED	IRS 990 filings
Ongoing	Conservative foundations	Unknown	Grants	REPORTED	990 filings

Money OUT (Funding Given)

Date	To	Amount	Type	Confidence	Source
2017-2018	Tommy Robinson (via Rebel Media)	~£85,000	Fellowship salary	CONFIRMED	The Observer Sept 2025
2017-2018	Katie Hopkins	Unknown	Fellowship salary	CONFIRMED	Wikipedia
2017-2018	Laura Loomer	Unknown	Fellowship salary	CONFIRMED	Wikipedia
2017-2018	Raheem Kassam	Unknown	Fellowship salary	CONFIRMED	Wikipedia
Ongoing	~20 total Shillman Fellows	Unknown	Fellowship salaries	CONFIRMED	DHFC, Observer

Known Associates

Person/Org	Relationship	Evidence
David Horowitz	Founder, ideological leader	Public knowledge
Robert Shillman	Board member, fellowship funder	DHFC, Observer
Ezra Levant	Fellowship placement partner (Rebel Media)	Observer
Tommy Robinson	Shillman Fellow	Observer
Katie Hopkins	Shillman Fellow	Wikipedia

Person/Org	Relationship	Evidence
Laura Loomer	Shillman Fellow	Wikipedia
Raheem Kassam	Shillman Fellow	Wikipedia

Key Finding: DHFC as the Funding Mechanism

The critical insight is that DHFC is the **institutional wrapper** that makes Shillman's individual funding appear institutional:

1. **Robert Shillman** wants to fund counter-jihad influencers
2. Direct donations would be transparent and traceable
3. Instead: Shillman sits on DHFC board → DHFC manages fellowships → fellows embedded in media orgs
4. Result: The money trail reads "fellowship programme" not "billionaire paying far-right propagandist"

This is a **three-layer obfuscation**:

- Layer 1: Shillman → DHFC (looks like charitable giving)
- Layer 2: DHFC → Rebel Media (looks like organisational partnership)
- Layer 3: Rebel Media → Individual fellows (looks like employment)

DHFC's Broader Activities

Beyond the fellowship programme, DHFC:

- Publishes "FrontPage Magazine" (right-wing online publication)
- Operates the "Jihad Watch" project (anti-Islam monitoring)
- Runs the "Islamist Watch" project
- Organises conferences and speaking events
- Publishes books (Horowitz is prolific author)

These activities reinforce the counter-jihad narrative that the fellowship programme promotes.

Significance

1. **Institutional laundering:** DHFC transforms individual billionaire funding into "institutional programmes"
2. **Transatlantic reach:** US nonprofit managing UK-based influencers via Canadian platform
3. **Systematic, not ad hoc:** ~20 fellowships = industrial-scale counter-jihad funding
4. **501(c)(3) implications:** Tax-exempt status used for political activity across borders
5. **Network centrality:** DHFC is the single node connecting Shillman money to all counter-jihad influencers

Research Notes

Completed:

- ☐ DHFC identified as Shillman fellowship manager
- ☐ Robert Shillman confirmed as board member
- ☐ Fellowship pipeline documented (Robinson, Hopkins, Loomer, Kassam)

Still needed:

- DHFC IRS EIN (search ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer)
- DHFC 990 filings — total revenue, grants given, board compensation
- Complete list of all ~20 Shillman Fellows (past and present)
- David Horowitz full profile (academic background, conversion from Marxism)
- DHFC total annual budget
- Other UK connections beyond the named fellows
- FrontPage Magazine / Jihad Watch funding structure
- Any Electoral Commission awareness of DHFC funding UK activity

Last Updated

- **Date:** 2026-06-14

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